



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

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January Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 NO AWANA NO Bible Study	4	5 Pastor's Study Day	6 8:00 am Men Pray
7 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	10 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	11	12 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	13 8:00 am Men Pray
14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	15 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	16 Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG	17 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	18	19 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	20 8:00 am Men Pray
21 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship Sanctity of Human Life	22 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	23 Pastor Teaches AM	24 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study	25 12:00 pm Goldenagers	26 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	27 8:00 am Men Pray
28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	29 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	30 Pastor Teaches AM	31 6:30 pm AWANA 6:30 pm Bible Study			



**January
2018**

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

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

Email: office@fhefc.org

Phone: 815-877-1919



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

The Unexpected Reactions of Jesus

by Betty Burnell

Have you ever paid attention to the familiar passage of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman at the well. I have read this several times and the following has never struck me til now ...

Jesus talks with this woman ... but never gets in her face or for that matter even addresses her situation as sin ... He talks as if He's on a Sunday walk in the park and just chatting with her. He obviously knows that she's been with several men and that she is living with someone who is not her husband. But Jesus just states the facts without any uppity judgment in his tone or even addressing what she is doing as sin. And the woman talks back as if she has done nothing wrong.

I find this conversation intriguing and not what I would expect given the subject matter. It teaches me that I can have confidence in sharing with Jesus anything ... after all He already knows everything I've ever done or will do anyways ... and that He will graciously listen without reacting negatively. It teaches me that Jesus is more interested in changing my heart in the moment and doesn't dwell on all the present or past garbage I have built up through the years. It teaches me that no matter who I am, or where I've been, or what I've done, Jesus is still willing to enter relationship with me. It teaches me that there are no cultural, gender or sinful barriers that Jesus will not cross when it comes to having an authentic relationship with me.

I think Jesus wants to dialogue with me and YOU ... The conversations with HIM are the building blocks that will lead us. But it has to start somewhere ... Jesus is calling you to the Word of God so He can dialog with you ... Jesus is safe to approach ... He is safe to talk with ... He loves us ... And handles us with care. (Based on John 4:4-29)

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

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

Wednesdays

- 6:30 – 8:00 AWANA
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday

- 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

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

Call or Text
(815) 391-3133

Email: mitch@ihgg.net

Blog: IHGG.NET

Thoughts for a New Year

It may be the number one question at the beginning of each New Year, or some variation of it: "What resolutions are you making?"

We have some time-honored traditions which are very good, and some which seem almost a joke. For many, a resolution or two will be made and kept through January, and a few will be kept into February. The almost universal question has become the byline: "How long did you stick with your resolution this year?" This has led me over the years to proclaim my dissolution with resolutions and other grim views of this particular tradition, but let me suggest an alternative which smacks a little of a resolution.

Let's Pray the Prayer of Isaiah 6:8 together

My suggestion for this next year is to pray Isaiah's prayer from chapter 6. His prayer was a very simple response to God's calling:

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Isaiah 6:8

While we understand, God was calling Isaiah specifically, He presents His call as a cry for any who would be willing to respond. Much like the Gospel, there is the General Call to all of humanity to hear the voice of God and respond. God is looking for willing servants and calling out to them. Isaiah hears the Call and he responds with a willing heart, "Here am I. Send me!" A willing servant hears the Call to serve, and he simply responds in the affirmative without condition.

My question: What would happen if each of us would pray this prayer and simply respond as the Lord directed us?

Let me fill in the details from the context, so no one accuses me of not making full disclosure. Here is the context of Isaiah's Call and the assignment God gives to him.

"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹ He said, "Go, and tell this

people: 'Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.' ¹⁰ "Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed." "
Isaiah 6:1-10

- **Isaiah sees a glorious vision of God**
He sees a wonderful vision of God in the year King Uzziah dies. God is sitting on His throne and His glory fills the temple.
- **Isaiah encounters the Holiness of God**
He is overwhelmed by God's holiness and majesty, and he is immediately struck by his own sinfulness. So striking are both of these truths, Isaiah feels as if the very molecules of his body will explode because God is so Holy and he is so sinful.
- **Isaiah receives the Forgiveness of God**
The Lord sends one of the Seraphim to touch Isaiah's lips with a burning coal from the altar of God. The coal is pressed to Isaiah's lips to forgive and purify him. Just like the wonder of seeing God's glory, The Lord's purifying grace comes with the pain of burning away sin and pride, while comforting with the promise of forgiven sin.
- **Isaiah hears the Call of God**
Having experienced the wonder, pain, purification and comfort of this vision, The Lord makes His call for a willing servant.
- **Isaiah accepts the Call of God without condition**
Isaiah expresses his willingness to do whatever The Lord is calling. It is striking how Isaiah asks for no details before accepting The Lord's Call. His willingness expresses how profoundly he trusts The One who is so glorious and merciful.
- **Isaiah is given a difficult assignment**
The Lord gives Isaiah a very hard assignment. But not once in Isaiah's writings is there found any regret for serving the Lord. Instead is a wonderful book filled with the glory of God.

My question: What would happen if each of us would pray this prayer and simply respond as the Lord directed us?

What would happen, if the servants of the Lord remembered to ask for direction from their benevolent Master, instead of dictating what He should do for us this next year?

How might we see His glory and His kingdom built? Would it be possible for the servants of such a King to know a deeper more lasting satisfaction and joy?

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch