

PARSON TO PERSON

Bill Hybels, a former pastor of Willow Creek Church in Chicago, Illinois, tells how some years ago a new staff member asked him how he had the gall to ask people who were already busy at work or in the home to get involved as volunteers at church. Listen now to that conversation:

“I mean, don’t you feel a little guilty doing this?” he asked. “Isn’t it hard to heap such a burden on people?” He had a point. But I knew of a bigger point: “During the next few months you’re going to meet people who stand at drill presses, ten hours a day, five or six days a week. When they go home at night, few of them sense the pleasure, meaning, and purpose of life they’ve heard advertised in commercials for beer or computer systems. They’re godly, conscientious people, and they feel thankful for their jobs. But they don’t find satisfaction for their souls at the drill press. And you’re going to meet fine, hardworking people in real estate who show thirty homes a week. If they’re lucky, one buyer will make an offer, but they’re not lucky every week. Though they love showing property and helping families find the right home, they do not arrive home at night filled with deep inner joy over the latest showing.

You’ll meet many workers. Some of them love their jobs; they feel stimulated and energized by their work. Some of them even leave their workplace each day knowing that they have honored God by their work and their love for people. But few of them would say: This is what life is all about.”

I look directly into the eyes of my young friend. “You and I get to invite these people to be used by God in ways they never imagined. “No,” I said, “I never really feel guilty inviting people to become volunteers

in our church. Never.” We were not created to chase the wind. We are created to join God on a mission. And God has work gloves on.” (*Bill Hybels, The Volunteer Revolution, pages 11-13*)

With Christmas looming before us God invites us to do the same. First, to have the Savior born within us so that we share his heart and mission. Second, to love the church and help it grow and take on deeper meaning for the world. Third, to determine what your passion for ministry can be and get started on it in tangible ways. Like Snack Sacks. This is a ministry that needs more volunteers and elbow grease along with items. This mission feeds hungry children and youth. It is one of the best things we do and it makes a profound difference in the life of recipients. I want to be part of a church making a difference in the lives of people by doing hands on work that makes a difference. As a church we take care of our needs. That’s a given. Beyond our doors is where we are defined as we live out the Gospel to and for others.

This year allow Christmas to refocus hearts and minds on things from above.
-Ken Timmerman

DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR TRADITIONAL SERVICES

December 24: 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion Hebrews 4:14-16 “A Manger and a Throne” Ken Timmerman

December 30: Elizabeth Murray, preaching both services

BUS FUND

We are THRILLED to announce that, due to your generous giving this month, we will be able to purchase a new bus for LUMC. The bus that will be purchased is the "fancier"

bus that many of you toured on Sunday. Not only will this purchase accommodate our youth on their adventures, but it will also allow our older adults to be able to comfortably and safely travel. The new bus will be purchased in early January 2019. We will still own the older bus, but it will be used mainly for events, such as around town travel, mission trips, and Salkehatchie. Thank you, again, for coming together and helping us reach our goal!

OUR CALENDAR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30am Trad. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:30am Coffee Time (Asbury Hall)

9:45am Sunday School (Classrooms)

11:00am Anew Worship (Wesley Hall)

11:00am Trad. Worship-Cantata (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

10:30am Prime Timers Exercise (Wesley Hall)

4:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Service (Sanctuary)

6:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Service (Sanctuary)

8:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Service (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

10:30am Prime Timers Exercise (Asbury Hall)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:00am Line Dancing (Wesley Hall)

2:30pm Prime Timers Cards (Asbury Hall)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

7:00am Centering Prayer (Prayer Room)

10:30am Prime Timers Exercise (Wesley Hall)

FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar in the traditional service are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my daddy, Henry Sloan, Jr., on his birthday and in memory of my grandparents, Henry & Nettie Sloan, on their anniversary today.

Charles Parnell

Russ Carlson

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

-John 11: 25-26

PRAYER REQUESTS:

NEW THIS WEEK:

Janice Eskridge-knee surgery 12/12

Kirk Wood-back surgery 12/12

Anne Epting-Luekemia 12/17/18

Elle Willis-shunt surgery 12/14

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Brenda Newman-hospitalization 11/27

Mary Corley-broken ankle 11/12

Mary Taylor-shoulder surgery 12/5

Lynn Brewer-surgery 11/28

Luther Duffie-wrist surgery 11/16

Virginia Smith-knee replacement 10/25

Eloise Crouch (Chuck Crouch’s grandmother-cancer

Danny Young-cancer

Pat Bickel-chemo treatments

Alice Hott-health concerns

W.T. Scruggs-cancer

Clyde Smith-cancer

Sandra Anderson-health concerns

Laura Beck-healing

Pat Bickel-cancer

Military Troops and their families

OUR HOMEBOUND/HEALTH

FACILITY MEMBERS: Gina McCuen,

Nona Jacobs, Edna Moore, Warren

Scoggins, Bennie Powell, Bobbie Goldin,

Ken Robb, Edith Worthy, Bill & Peggy Lott,

Marie Schuster, Robert & Ella Scoggins,

Dolores Gatch, Reta Richardson, Dr. Albert

Thomas, Jean Barbour.