

THE

LAMPLIGHTER

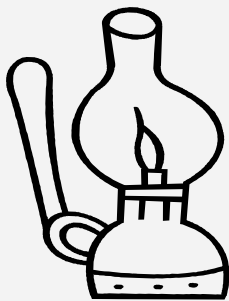
Publication of

Belmont Baptist Church

Pastor Eddie Smith

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JANUARY 2010

"Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119: 10

From the Pastor's Desk: THE ABC's of EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER

"Lord teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

How effective and fervent is your prayer life? In Psalm 119, David used an acrostic, a listing of the Hebrew alphabet, as a guide to assist him in giving praise to God. In the following devotional on prayer we shall use our English alphabet to assist us in learning about prayer.



Lord, I come into Your presence . . .

"Asking in Jesus' name" (John 16:24). As you begin your prayer time, approach God's throne of grace with the matchless name of Jesus in your heart and on your lips. In your own name, you have no right to approach God, let alone request something of Him!

"Believing all of God's promises" (Jeremiah 33:3; Romans 4:21). According to E.R. Storms, there are 8,810 promises of God in the Bible. God cannot lie—when He says something from His holy mouth, His strong right arm will surely perform it. Do you believe this?

"Confessing my sins" (1 John 1:9). When confessing your sin, hide nothing, and do not attempt to defend or justify your sinful actions. Be honest with God—He already knows a terrible sinner, committing adultery and murder, but what made David great in the eyes of God is that he readily admitted his sins to God.

"Delighting in God's Word and will" (Psalm 1:2; 37:4; 40:8). Read absolutely no less than a chapter a day from the Bible (three or more is preferable). Start in Matthew and read through the New Testament. When you finish begin the Old Testament. Begin your day by asking God what His will is for you today. End the day by reporting to God how well you accomplished His will and ask for forgiveness where you failed.

"Entering my prayer closet frequently" (Psalm 55:21; 100:4; 119:62). Some prayers will be long, some short; some heartfelt, and some seemingly obligatory—but all will assist you in developing a prayerful attitude toward God that lasts all day long. A single sentence is still a prayer. Keep short accounts and up-to-date with God. You don't have one short conversation with your husband or wife each day if you are to maintain an intimate relationship with them—talk with God throughout the day, as though He were beside you—because He is!

"Forgiving others their sins against me" (Mark 11:24-26; Ephesians 4:32). An unforgiving attitude hinders your prayer and spiritual life. We have harmed God far more than another has harmed us—and God has completely forgiven us. Shall we receive grace and still hold bitter resentments? God will not respond to such an attitude!

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From the Pastor's Desk: (Cont'd from previous page)

“ **Giving thanks in everything**” (1 Thessalonians 5:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-3). Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord hath done (for you). Never ask God to do something new for you without first thanking Him for His many past blessings! It is easy to be thankful for blessings—our goal is to thank God that He is with us during our trials and suffering.



“**Humbling myself before God**” (Philippians 5:8; James 4:6, 10; 1 Peter 5:6). Be submissive to God—do not run ahead of God, or lag behind. It is good to bodily portray your submissiveness to God; bow before Him, prostrate yourself in His blessed presence.

“**Interceding for others regularly**” (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:1; Hebrews 7:25). Keep a list of those you are praying for, so as not to forget anyone. Pray for your family, friends, neighbors, your religious and political leaders, and special events and situations—lastly, pray for yourself.

“**Joying in the goodness of my Lord**” (Nehemiah 8:10; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:5). The words joy and rejoice occur over 300 times in the Bible. Happiness depends upon “happenings,” the situation around you. But true joy can transcend happiness so that we can rejoice while we walking through a dark and lonesome valley!

“**Knowing that God is listening to me when I speak to Him**” (1 John 5:14-15). God always hears us, but His answer may not always please us. God’s response may take one of three forms, “Go, no, or slow!” God knows all things, even when a sparrow falls to the ground—you are worth far more to Him than a sparrow!

“**Loving!**” God loves you unconditionally (John 3:16). And if we are to please God at all we must love God and our neighbor; not in word only, but also in action (Psalm 18:1; Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 5:5).

“**Meditating on the beauty and goodness of my Lord**” (Psalm 63:5; 104:24; 119:48, 62). One of the reasons David was a man after God’s own heart is that he wrote love poems to God—David told God why he loved Him. A balanced prayer life should consist of four components (adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication). Articulate to God “why” you love Him so. Is it just because of His gifts to you, or is it because of who and what He is?

“**Needing God**” (Hebrews 4:16). A beautiful song lyric says, “(Lord) I need Thee every hour.” What would happen if the Lord would abandon me for just a short minute? What tragedy would strike if He would look away just for an instant? What would I feel if the Lord would remove me from the palm of His hand and sit me down for a moment while He was distracted with something else? God created us, and He sustains us with each mortal breath!

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From the Pastor's Desk: (Cont'd from previous page)

“Opening my heart and life to God” (Psalm 139:23-24). Let God have His way with you. Do not compartmentalize God, into one area of your life. Do not hide areas of your life from Him—hide nothing from Him; reveal all to Him. He knows about it anyway! But it is good to let God know that you agree with Him and why. Converse with God. Prayer is being intimate with God. Ask God “Why?” Job did. If you are angry, tell God—He knows anyway. He is BIG enough to handle your frustrating, honest emotions!

“Praising His name” (Psalm 119:75; 146:2; Hebrews 2:12; 13:15). Prayer and praise go hand-in-hand! Sing songs during prayer time. Relate a quality or attribute of God that you admire and tell Him why you thank Him for being the way He is. Your husband or wife loves to be complimented—is God any different? Lift God up, above everything else in your life.

“Quieting myself before God” (Isaiah 26:3-4; 30:15). God can quiet the storms of our life, but can we quiet our hectic lives long enough to listen to His still, small voice? Sometimes God is in the storm, but other times He is in the stillness—and we must listen intently to hear Him. Get away from the noise and distractions to just “listen” to God. He will speak if you take the time to hear Him.

“Remembering His wonderful works” (Psalm 77:6; 77:11, 14; 2 Peter 1:13). Is anything impossible with God? God is a worker of miracles; He moves mountains for His beloved. Reflect upon His mighty power displayed through the many miracles in the Old and New Testament. God’s arm is not short concerning His love for you!

“Singing unto my Lord” (Colossians 3:16). Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Don’t say I can’t sing; I can and must! Do we criticize the voice of our children when they tell us how much they love us? Sing in your car, at home, sing quietly in your soul when you are in a public place or at work, and loudly at church in assembled worship. Memorize the words to your favorite Christian hymns and pray to God in song!

“Trusting God with all my heart” (Proverbs 3:5-6). God wants only good for me, and His way is always best. “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” To disobey is going to bring me pain—sooner or later. God will chastise His children—He sees and hears everything.

“Understanding that God will guide me and speak to me” (Psalm 32:8; 119:34). My job as God’s servant is to be ready to serve Him—I must be willing to listen and to forsake all to please Him, and only Him. God is the Master and I am His willing slave; a slave has no will—my will is to do the will of God. When God speaks I am to obey. But first I must be on holy ground so that I can hear and recognize the voice of God! How do I know it is not my own thoughts, or the voice of the world or the enemy speaking to me? intimate with God. Ask God “Why?” Job did! If you are angry, tell God—He knows anyway. He is BIG enough to handle your frustrating, honest emotions!

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From the Pastor's Desk: (Cont'd from previous page)

“Vowing unto God” (Psalm 132:104). Vow to God that I will be loyal to Him only. Commit myself to God, and allow no other to control or influence me.



“Worshipping God in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). I must worship God in the manner He has revealed—Cain was the first to find this out. I must approach God with reverence and intentionality, not in formality and ritual, and disrespectful familiarity.

“Examining myself thoroughly” (Psalm 26:2; 1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5). I am called to examine myself, not my neighbor. When I do so, I will find I am a despicable, vile sinner saved by grace, and it will drive me to confession and thanksgiving to God. There is nothing worthy or good in any of us.

“Yielding my body and life to God as a living sacrifice” (Romans 6:13; 12:1). This is the crowning call to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ, indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is the foundation to living the genuine Christian life. God help me to live on the altar!

“Zeroing in on my ministry and purpose in life” (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:17). I have been called for a purpose—it is not just to come to church on Sunday and occupy a pew for an hour. I am to glorify my Savior in everything I say and do. My commission is to introduce Christ to everyone I know, spread the “good news” to friend and stranger. I am called to be “light” in the darkness of this world, to spread “salt” on the corrupting evils around me. Like John, I am called to be a voice crying in the wilderness, saying “Repent!” I am an “ambassador” representing the King of kings in this world. How well am I performing His calling? What is my ministry?

Pastor Ed

NOW IS THE TIME

We live in troubling times, with wars, poverty, hunger, economic woes, health scares and more. So what now? Believe this: We Christians will survive the test! Faith, prayer and discipline will bring us victory. Our love for God and the need for worship, Christian education and joyous fellowship will ultimately prevail.

A pastor who worked in a city's poverty-stricken area was asked how his work was going. He answered, “It is a hand-to-mouth existence: God's hand providing for our mouths.” So it may be for many churches and people today. But God promises to see us through.

Belmont Baptist Church Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m., Sunday School

11:00 a.m., Morning Worship

6:30 p.m., BYG 4 Jesus

6:30 p.m. Jr. Youth Group

Wednesday

7:00 p.m., Prayer Meeting

8:00 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday

7:30 p.m., Home Bible Study

January Sermon Schedule

January 3 *“The Sabbath Day: Saturday or Sunday?”*

January 10 *“Why Not Walk on What Jesus Walked on When Jesus Walked on Water?”*

January 17 *“2012: What Can We Expect?”*

January 24 *“Prayer That Rocks the Church”*

January 31 *“Take Two Prayers and Call Me in the Morning”*

Belmont Baptist Pre-School

Teachers -

Joann McDougald

Jane Kofroth

Rose Gallagher

Mon-Fri.—9:00 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
(Serving children age 2 to 4 years)



Worship Leaders

Jan. 3	Gary Kimmel
Jan. 10	Jim Yates, Jr.
Jan. 17	Fred Eliasen
Jan. 24	Michael Talluto
Jan. 31	Jane Kofroth

Song Leaders

Jan. 3	Gary Kimmel
Jan. 10	Barbara Duffy
Jan. 17	Fred Eliasen
Jan. 24	Dawn Talluto
Jan. 31	Bob Flubacher

JANUARY 2010



Door Greeters



Jan. 3 Earl & Barbara Russell
Jan. 10 Fred & Marlyn Eliassen
Jan. 17 Djawotho & Asinata Kisa
Jan. 24 Winnie Marshall & Emma Jean Murphy
Jan. 31 Birdie Sharp & Ruth Severino

Communion Preparers

Jeff Kimmel

Communion Servers

Kevin Yates, Michael Talluto, Fred Eliassen
& Marlyn Eliassen

Head Ushers

Jeff Kimmel

Childcare Ministry

January 3
January 10
January 17
January 24
January 31

Cleaning Teams

January 2 Gary, Kay & Jeff Kimmel
January 9 Church work day
January 16 Joann & Mike McDougald; Clare LaPalombara
January 23 Jenny & Ryan Siddons; Rog Naimoli
January 30 Bob, Jayne & Bobby Wilhelm; Asinata Kisa



Belmont Driving Schedule

January 3 Gary Kimmel
January 10 Kevin Yates
January 17 Bob Wilhelm
January 24 Robert Naimoli
January 31 Jim Yates, Sr.



TABLES OF EIGHT

It is by popular request
TABLES OF EIGHT
is returning in February

Here's a great opportunity for meeting new friends
and enjoying an evening out!

“TABLES OF EIGHT”

Is an arrangement of adults
(singles and couples)
who meet for dinner or dessert
and an evening of fellowship.

Those who sign up
will be clustered into a
“TABLE OF EIGHT”
for five months (February-June)
Typically, each group of eight will meet
4 times over the 5 month period

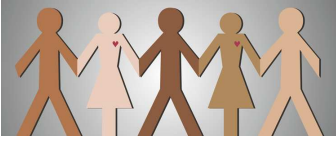
Individuals and couples who participate
will be asked to serve as the “host/hostess” for one
dinner/dessert event
(on the other three occasions they are guests)

Sign up TODAY
on the church bulletin board

“TABLES OF EIGHT” will be grouped
during January



Any questions call Barbara Russell at 610-446-0933



Fellowship Ministries News

Fellowship Ministries would like to thank all those who attended and participated in the Christmas Dinner at Caroline's Restaurant on December 6th. A festive time and delicious dinner was had by all, including a special presentation of Christmas customs in other countries.

Our committee is planning a soup lunch on Sunday, February 7th after worship. We will also be providing breakfast for the Men's Fellowship on Saturday, February 20th.

Our Men in the Military

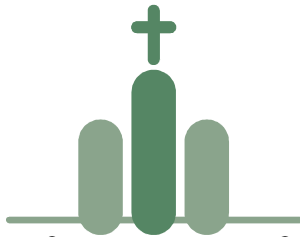


Please continue to bring in donations for our two men stationed in Iraq. We will be sending another package shortly.

Thank you all for continuing this special ministry.

GOODBYE, OLD YEAR

**Old Year! upon the Stage of Time
You stand to bow your last adieu;
A moment, and the prompter's chime
Will ring the curtain down on you.**



AMERICAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

This may help you in making a decision on what stores to shop in this Christmas Season!

AFA's 2009 listing of top retailers and how they recognize Christmas

Based on current advertising, below is a list of companies that avoid, ban, or use the term "Christmas" in their advertising. We will continually update the list, so check back often. If a company has items associated with Christmas, but did not use the word "Christmas," then the company is considered as censoring "Christmas."

- Color Code: (1) Company uses the term "Christmas" on a regular basis, we consider that company Christmas-friendly.
(2) Company refers to Christmas infrequently, or in a single advertising medium, but not in others.
(3) Company may use "Christmas" sparingly in a single or unique product description, but as a company, does not recognize it.

SPECIAL ALERT: AFA is calling for a "Christmas" boycott of Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic stores.

(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)
Amazon.com	Target	Best Buy	Advance Auto Parts
Bass Pro Shops	Toys R Us	Hy-Vee Stores	Aidi
Bath & Body Works	Walgreens	Kohl's	Barnes & Noble
Bed, Bath & Beyond	Wal-Mart	Safeway	Books-A-Million
Belk	Sams Club		Braum's Ice Cream
Big Lots			CVS Pharmacy
Cabella's Collective			Dick's Sporting Goods
Brands			Gap Stores
Costco			Harris Teeter Stores
Dollar Tree			Home Shopping Network
Family Dollar			Kroger
Dollar General			Limited Brands
H.E.B. Stores			McDonald's
Hallmark			Nordstrom
Hobby Lobby			Office Depot
JC Penney			Olive Garden
K-Mart			Outback Steakhouse
Lowe's			Publix
Macy's			Radio Shack
Meijer			Staples
Menard's			Supervalue
Michael's Stores			Victoria's Secret
Neiman Marcus			Old Navy
Petsmart			Banana Republic
QVC			
Rite Aid			
Sears			
Super D Drug Stores			



What's Cooking?

“This month’s recipes are from BH & G & Jean Anderson

DELICIOUS HOLIDAY DISHES

APPLE CRANBERRY PECAN STUFFING (BH & G)

Ingredients:

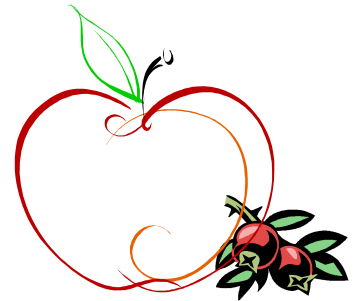
1 1/2 cups apple juice
2 tbsp. butter
1 small apple, chopped
1/2 cup cranberries (you can use dried)
1 pkg. (6 oz.) STOVE TOP Stuffing Mix for Chicken
1/4 cup pecan pieces, toasted

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Servings: 8

Directions:

Bring juice and butter to boil in medium saucepan on high heat. Stir in apples, cranberries and stuffing mix; cover. Remove from heat. Let stand 5 minutes.



BARK (Jean Anderson) A simple and quick chocolate holiday treat)

Ingredients:

1 sleeve of saltine crackers
1 cup butter
1/2 cup sugar
12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips
sliced almonds, pecan pieces or sprinkles if desired

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. Line a jelly roll pan (cookie sheet w/ edges) w/ parchment paper or foil, folding the edges up so the sides are covered as well. Spray w/ Pam. Lay the saltines in a single layer on the parchment paper. Melt butter and sugar in a medium saucepan over medium to medium-high heat. Bring to boil and cook 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour butter sugar mixture over the saltine crackers. Spread the mixture evenly, working quickly as it will begin to cool. Put pan in oven and bake for 10 minutes until golden. Remove pan from oven and immediately sprinkle w/ chocolate chips. Place back in oven for a couple of minutes to melt the chips. When the chips are soft enough, spread them evenly over the entire layer of sugar covered crackers. Immediately sprinkle sliced almonds or pecans on top. Press the nuts slightly w/ spoon so they are firmly in the chocolate and will be less likely to fall off when the bark cools. Put the pan in the refrigerator and refrigerate for one hour. Remove pan from refrigerator. Using your hands or a pizza cutter, break or cut the bark into bite size pieces. Store in airtight container in refrigerator. If layering the bark, place sheets of waxed paper between the layers to prevent sticking.

STAINED-GLASS STAR COOKIES

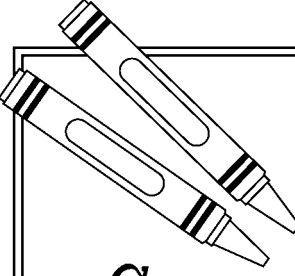
These star cookies will remind you of the star that led the Magi, or wise men, to our Lord Jesus. Enjoy these treats for yourself or give them as gifts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) margarine or butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Plastic wrap
- Hard candy such as Life Savers in assorted colors
- Zippered baggies
- Rolling pin
- 2 star cookie cutters, one much smaller than the other
- Aluminum foil

What you do:

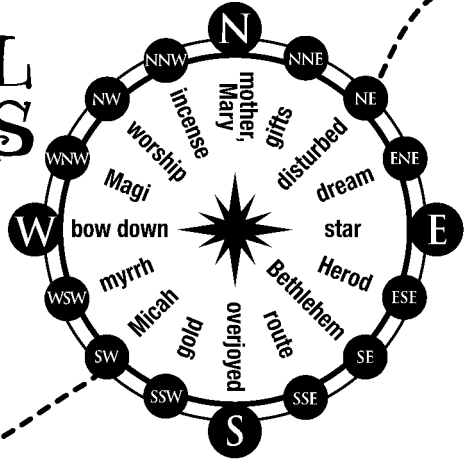
1. Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together.
2. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs and vanilla.
3. Add the flour mixture and beat until well blended.
4. Divide the dough into four equal pieces. Wrap each piece in plastic wrap and refrigerate for about 30 minutes.
5. Separate candies by color and place each color in a sealed, zippered baggie. With a rolling pin, crush candy into small pieces (not a fine powder).
6. One at a time, roll out each chilled dough piece on a well-floured surface.
7. Use the large cookie cutter to make stars, and then place them on a foil-lined cookie sheet. Then press the small star cookie cutter into each large star and remove the small piece of star-shaped dough.
8. Place some crushed candy in each star-shaped hole.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. (The candy will melt and be translucent when cooled, like a stained-glass window.)



Just for KIDS

SPECIAL VISITORS

Matthew 2 tells of visitors who traveled to worship Jesus. Read that story, or see if you can answer the questions below from memory. Use the compass guide to fill in the correct answers.



1. Who was king during the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How was King Herod feeling about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men and told them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. What did the Magi do first before they worshiped the child? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW)
_____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as ... _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod, 2. Magi, 3. disturbed, 4. Micah, 5. Bethlehem, 6. worship, 7. star, 8. overjoyed, 9. mother, Mary, 10. bow down, 11. gold, incense, myrrh, 12. gifts, 13. dream, 14. route

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