

Haymarket Herald

February 2012

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LOVE STORIES

The movie *When Harry met Sally* came out in 1986. It was a huge box-office success that helped cement Billy Crystal's status as a big-time movie star even as it served as something of a break-out hit for Meg Ryan. For those who may not know, or may not remember, the movie is a romantic comedy that focuses on the long simmering relationship between Harry and Sally (Crystal and Ryan) – a relationship that careens from hate at first sight to great friendship to failed romance before finally ending in a happily-ever-after marriage.

Important to the movie are some out-take scenes of elderly couples talking about how they first met and fell in love. Though these scenes were filmed with actors, the dialogues are based on real interviews conducted by the writers. The tales the snippets tell are humorous and sweet and really quite touching. They are, in my opinion, as memorable as any of the humorous scenes that fill the movie.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-24

I always enjoy hearing church member couples tell the stories of how they met and married. I always enjoy telling Amy's and my story. When people ask, "how'd you meet," I always answer, "on a psyche unit" – which is true! We weren't patients, mind you, but employees. It was a child psychiatric unit at a hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1990. We were both seminary students at the time, working on the unit. That's where we met, but we didn't start dating until a little later when we found ourselves in the same chaplaincy class during the fall semester. Things moved pretty quickly and we knew, by the end of the year, that we wanted to get married. In August of the next year we did marry, in Amy's hometown, Lexington, Virginia.

One of the neat coincidences that signify the rightness of our meeting and marrying is the fact that my first trip into Virginia had taken me right through Lexington about a month or so before I met Amy. Late in the summer of 1990, I ventured into Virginia with a friend to take a trip down the Blue Ridge Parkway. We got on the parkway in Buena Vista. As many of you know, Buena Vista is just a few miles down the road from Lexington. In fact, our route to the parkway took us through Lexington into Buena Vista. Amy was probably in town the very day I was driving through. Little did I know then that I would be back in Lexington, a year later, to take her as my wife.

That's the neat thing about telling and hearing our love stories – we see the many amazing ways in which God's hand led us to our spouses. It goes by many names in the secular sphere – fate, kismet, luck, good fortune – but we believers call it “God's hand,” and rightly so, I believe. For our coming together in satisfying marriage relationships is often the stuff not just of coincidence and happenstance, but of outright miracle. We know from firsthand experience that one of God's many graces in life is his leading and guiding of his children into marriage relationships that bring great blessing.

It's important to remember and tell our love stories because they are evidence of another, and greater, love story we all know and enjoy – God's love story concerning us. God's relationship with us is a love story from start to finish. It begins with God creating us in love; it crescendos in God's not turning away from us on account of our sin, but coming to us in Christ and dying for us so that we can be reunited to him; and, it continues to its conclusion as God sustains us daily in so many ways until we finally arrive home to live with him into eternity. Among the many ways God's sustaining love is made manifest is by his activity in bringing us into life-long unions of mutual love and deep satisfaction.

Now, having made this much out of the matter, let me stop before going too far. For, I know this is a sore subject for some. The sad fact of the matter is that too many have known as much pain and sorrow in their marriages as joy and fulfillment. Too many have known more pain than pleasure in their marriage relationships. Too many have not even been able to find that “right person”

in order to get married in the first place. As with all things in life, there is so much mystery here – so much complexity. The matter is beyond us, finally. (Add this question to the list of questions like unto it: Why does one person suffer perpetual disease, and another knows only good health? Why does one always struggle to make ends meet, and another is rich? Why is one born in a land of great opportunity like ours, and another is born in a desperate third-world country?) We do not know, and cannot say, why it is that one finds and knows the joy of marital bliss, and another doesn't. But what we can say – and must say – is that those who know of God's grace here should give heartfelt thanks for it.

It is a source of continual amazement to me that my path in life and Amy's path in life intersected. It is a source of continual thanksgiving for me that they did. For, I am the most blessed man in all the world. I have a wonderful wife with whom I share so much joy and happiness. And I have three great children who bring me delight daily. It is more than I should have. I don't deserve a bit of it. It is all God's grace. Thanks be to God!

I'm sure I'm not alone here. I'm sure there are others of us who feel the same way. I'm sure there are still more who would feel this way, if prodded just a bit. Take time this month to remember your many love stories, and to remember the biggest love story. Then take time to sing God's praises.

Dr. Stewart



VALENTINE'S BANQUET

The Valentine's Banquet is fast approaching. The theme of this year's meal is “A Night in Italy.” It will be held on Saturday night, February 11, with seatings at 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. Make your reservations now by filling out a brochure and placing it in the box in the great hall. Remember that all donations go to help the youth fund their mission trip this summer! **Reservations need to be made by Sunday, February 5.**

From the Deacons Bench



THE POWER OF PRAYER

This is the time of year for new beginnings. While many people including myself resolve to diet and exercise daily, why don't we resolve to spend more time in daily prayer? God yearns for all of us to pray- but not for all of us to pray exactly the same way. Many aspects of how we pray, how much and how often, will depend on who we are and what our daily lives are like. James 4:2: *You do not have because you do not ask.* I save a time before or after breakfast to read a short devotion and Bible passage. Then I pray for the day. We should always pray in the Name of Jesus. This can be done before work also, or later if it is best for you. I find when I skip this special time my day does not go as well.

There are many different types of prayer. I *share* these with you and will give examples of each one.

1. Adoration: "Oh Lord, how wonderful is your spirit which guides me each day."
2. Thanksgiving: "I praise you Lord for your guidance, your mercy and your love."
3. Confession: "Forgive me of my sins today."
4. Repentance: "With your help and guidance I will mend my ways."
5. Intercession: "Lord, I pray for my friend that you will comfort her in her suffering, and if it be your will, that you would heal her. Draw near to her, protect and encourage her. Give some joy to all who suffer."
6. Petition: "Lord you know my situation and where I need the help. Please help me to make it better and speak to others that they may know the right way."

Intercessory group prayer is very strong. It has been a blessing to be a part of it and to hear the

results in our Wednesday prayer meetings. It is important to remember that it is in God's time. He can answer now or later, or give one a better way. Here are some examples of what group prayer can do. A neighbor of mine was undergoing chemo, so we prayed for him and for good results. I saw him at a meeting and he thanked me for our prayers and the prayer card. He said they helped, as the tumor had reduced in size to almost nothing. My brother told of a woman in their church who had a brain tumor. Many people in the church prayed for her. A few days later, as she was preparing for surgery, the x-ray showed no tumor. Time to praise God!

Give thanks in all things. 1Thessalonians 5:18: *Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* My husband, Alex, suffered different physical problems and cancer. During his operations and chemo, we read a chapter in our *Book of Praise* by Ruth and Warren Myers. We thanked God for his protection, comfort and guidance every day in the midst of his suffering. The most serious operation took place in 2005. After this, he was given only weeks to live. We prayed. After a week, the surgeon called to say that it was a GIST; and the best part was that there was a medicine that, while not curing it, could sustain life. So we thanked God. As a result, his life was extended over 5 years.

Our best example of perfect prayer is the Lord's Prayer. As we recite it in church I wonder if we fail to think about the awesome meaning of this perfect prayer of Jesus. As you can see, it encompasses each element of prayer I have mentioned above.

Our friend lost her brother to Leukemia. He had gone through transfusions and chemo and all the treatments. And now it was not helping. She asked us to pray for him. We did so. One day after that, she and her other brother were discussing how nice it would be to have the Twenty-third Psalm read at his funeral. At the same time, in Hospice, the pastor sat with their brother reading the Twenty-third Psalm. Just as he read, *and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever*, the brother went to the open arms of our Lord.

The nearness of God gives us rest and power in prayer in all aspects of life. Make His intimate presence a priority. Seek nearness to Him and He will draw near to you and your faith will make it easier to pray.

There are many aspects of prayer. Prayer can be simple. Besides my morning prayer, I pray my way through the day. If I need help in something, I just pray, "Lord please help me." Most times, minutes later, the problem is solved. It is almost hard to believe, but I know it comes from God. We must believe! We can pray, but if we do not believe our prayers may not be answered. During the time of my husband's passing, I felt your prayers. Your prayers have comforted me and strengthened me beyond anything I could imagine. I thank you so much. I must also believe that the last time God chose to answer the prayers for Alex was by giving him the ultimate healing in Heaven.

Prayer can be amazing. Have you really put your situation totally in God's hands? It is easy to pray but to still want to keep control. In 2008, we had planned to move back to VA from Medford, New Jersey. We had listed our house there in February. Few people came to see it. There were two other houses on the street for sale also. Meanwhile, on April 15 we were due to close on our home in Virginia. We did not want to own two houses. By late March, we prayed "Lord we surrender all- the sale of our home is in your time not ours. We surrender it to You." We came to Virginia on April 14 for the closing on the next day. On the afternoon of the April 14, the day before we were to close, our realtor called to say that our house in New Jersey had sold. We thanked God.

I believe that things and events happen for a reason in God's plan. You may not realize it at the time, but in retrospect, you think if I had not been there at that time, I would not have been so blessed.

So, in closing, God does not care whether the words of your prayer are fancy. He just wants to hear from you. Your prayer to your Heavenly Father is personal and should come from the heart. May you experience God's richest blessings in the year 2012. *Philippians 4: 4-9: Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving; present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your minds and your hearts in Christ Jesus.*

Ruth Nagy



MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The Outreach Committee is busy trying to help identify and match needs and the persons who can help meet them. It needs your help! First, the committee is trying to organize a ministry to church members and others in the community in need of light home repairs. If you know of someone with such a need, or if you have the time and skills to help those who have these needs, please let the committee know. Second, the committee is compiling a list of persons in the church who have the time, energy and desire to help homebound members and the sick. If you would be able to make a meal, drive someone to an appointment, sit with someone as a caregiver/companion for a short period of time, or minister to them in some similar fashion, please let the committee know of your availability. Contact Debbie Swindall. Let's make this a year of reaching out to others in Jesus' name.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

For those who like to use them, there are offering envelopes available on the kitchen counter at the church. The Stewardship Committee appreciates your faithfulness in tithing to support the work of the Lord in and through Haymarket Baptist Church.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee continues to seek interested church members to staff various of the church's committees. There is room on several committees but acute need for members on the youth, stewardship and missions committees. Please contact Dinah Thompson if you are interested in serving.



HOLY COMMUNION

February 26, 2012

It is a sacred privilege for every disciple to remember his Lord in the observance of the Supper, and it is his solemn duty as well. Few signs more effectually tell of a spiritual decline in the individual soul or in the Church than a neglect of the sacred Communion. It is the duty of every believer to be baptized, and the duty of every baptized believer to commemorate the dying love of his Lord at the Supper. Let no disciple who loves his Lord lightly esteem or neglect this sacred rite.

Edward T. Hiscox



ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

At the business meeting in January, the church approved, with minor amendments, the job description for the associate pastor. You may contact the church office for a copy of the approved edition. The search committee will now post an advertisement for the position in appropriate venues and begin receiving resumes. Our projected end date for receiving resumes is March 15. At that point, the committee will undertake the most demanding part of its work: it will review the resumes, contact references and conduct interviews as it works toward the selection of one candidate for the church to consider. Please keep the committee in your prayers daily. The committee consists of the following church members: Patrick McGahan, chairman; J.T. Frazier; Brad Young.

• FLOWER CHART •



Opportunities to place flowers in the sanctuary are available on any Sunday excluding Easter and the month of December. Please sign up on the flower chart that is located on the bulletin board in the great hall. Also, please note if you are giving these flowers in memory or in honor of a particular person or persons. You are also welcome to call Ann in the church office for help in securing a date.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear Church Family,
Happy February...the month we focus on God's love at school! What a joy it is to be able to teach about love from God's perspective! In kindergarten we learn John 3:16 as our memory verse this month. Each class has a Valentine's party and we learn about the many ways that we are loved by God and how we can love Him, too. We learn that you may not be able to mail a valentine to Jesus, but you can show Him that you love Him when you pray, sing songs to Him or help others.

Other activities this month include our registration for the school year 2012-2013. This registration takes place on February 1, at 7:00 a.m., for currently enrolled students, and at 8:00 a.m., for church members and alumni. On February 6, at 7:00 a.m., new families may register their children. Where do you register? It's on our website, www.hbcpk.com. For more details, please contact the school office at 703-753-9561. Please pray with us for a full enrollment!

We'll also celebrate Ground Hog Day and learn about predictions. It is *Dental Health Month* and we'll enjoy a visit from Gainesville Pediatric Dentistry. It's also *Healthy Heart Month*, and we hope to have a doctor or two visit us! Another highlight in February is *Pajama Day*--this is one way we celebrate the letter "Pp"! Everyone looks forward to this day--pjs, slippers and a stuffed

animal. In Kindergarten, each child brings a stuffed animal the day before, and the stuffed animals have a sleepover in class. The next morning...oh, the mischief the animals got into is so much fun to discover! Preschoolers enjoy either pancakes or pizza to add to the fun.

Lastly, we'll celebrate the 100th day of school, doing 100 different things. Kindergarten also heads to George Mason University to see the play "Charlotte's Web". All this fun and learning...doesn't it make you want to get back to a simpler time of life like preschool?

Our students are still waiting to see some deep snow....and teachers are hoping for a snow day as well!! Hope the winter finds you warm and cozy, and that February is a lovely month of love for you and your family.

In His Service,

Mrs. Laurie Frasz
Director, Haymarket Baptist Church Preschool
Kindergarten



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In case of inclement weather on a Sunday or Wednesday, please check the church website or the phone answering machine. We will post an announcement at the bottom of the church's website homepage and will record a message on the answering machine. You may also contact your deacon to inquire about church closings. Be advised that Wednesday evening activities are automatically cancelled when Prince William County schools are closed on account of snow and/or ice.

THE KIDS PAGE

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

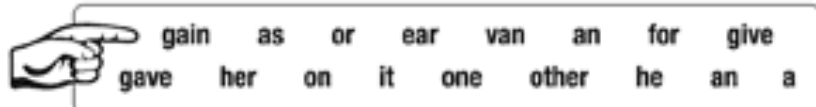


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _____ w _____ h each
 ot _____ d _____ give
 _____ e an _____ if _____ y
 of you h _____ grie _____ ce
 a _____ st some _____ .
 For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
 for _____ you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV



PASSPORT KIDS

Plans are already in place for our children to make their third trip to Passportkids! camp. We are returning to Camp Piankatank in Hartfield, Virginia, for this year's edition. Camp dates are June 19-22. Children who have completed grades 3-6 by this summer are eligible to attend. Total cost for the camp is \$238.00 per child. Please contact the church office if you would like your child to go. A deposit of \$60.00 is due by the end of February.



The First New Adventures Group

In January we were fortunate to have as our guest, Lt. Quentin Lawler, Jane Strong's handsome grandson. Lt. Lawler is with the Manassas City Police Department. He was able to advise us on how to be vigilant on a daily basis and to give us some common sense ways to protect ourselves.

Next month, on February 20 at 11:30 a.m., we look forward to a potluck lunch at the church. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Chairperson,
Jerry Gentry

HAYMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 182
HAYMARKET, VA 20168

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