

Clifton Avenue Church of God

Pastoral Ponderings

It's co-o-l-l-d-d out. The ground is hard but underneath the stillness God is preparing the earth for the birthing of seeds that will break out into NEW life. Colors will surround us, fragrances invade our nasal passages and cause us to smile. It's the promise of Spring that helps us endure the rigors of winter.

Our hearts can get cold too. We can become calloused to the needs around us simply because they are such common, every day occurrences, that we stop feeling, hearing or seeing the distress of others. Then a tragedy strikes, like the earthquakes of Haiti, and we see countless images of total devastation but that's hundreds of miles away so it still doesn't hit home.

The one thing I fear about living in America is that we can so easily take for granted the blessings God has bestowed upon us, that we forget the horrible death Jesus died to grace us with forgiveness. We forget the terrible sacrifices Jesus made to gift us with the promises of heaven. "And because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12).

Our theme for February is "Matters of the Heart" and we will embark on a journey to prepare our hearts for the coming of spring. The seeds are in the ground and God is about to breathe NEW life into our City the likes of which, we have NEVER experienced.

BE READY, BE PRAYERFUL, EXPECT A MIRACLE!!!

Pastor David

Inside this issue:
February 2010

Pastoral	1
Counseling	1
Announcements	2
Announcements	3
Calendar	4

Counseling Corner

LOVE

(Read John 14:15-26)

Real love brings security into our life. For many of us, feelings of insecurity contribute to the power of our dependency. Believing that love can bring lasting security may be hard for those of us who have been abandoned. Maybe someone we loved betrayed our trust. Perhaps someone turned away from us when we betrayed theirs. It could be that someone we needed died, leaving us permanently.

Jesus promised, "No, I will not abandon you as orphans...I will come to you" (John 14:18). We may ask, How can I trust in God's love when it feels like all I've ever known is love that

disappoints? Here's the difference: Jesus is the only one who entered our life through the "one way" door of death. "God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loves us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

The psalmist wrote, "For he understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust...The wind blows, and we are gone...But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him" (Psalm 103:14-18).

God's love is unconditional and always waiting for us. Turning our life over to God involves

opening the door of our heart to his love. Filling up on God's love helps us to avoid relapses. It meets us at our deepest need and overcomes our most powerful insecurities.



Springfield House of Prayer

616 N. Limestone
Upper Level of Marriage Resource Ctr.

February Hours

Mondays: 9am-3pm & 6-8pm

Tuesdays: 10am-1pm & 6-9pm

Wednesdays: 9am-4pm

Couples Get Together at the Gibsons...

Feb. 20, 2010 at 6:00pm



Super Bowl Party

February 1, kickoff time 6:20pm, Doors will be open by 5:50pm.

Admission is **2 cans of soup** which will go to our pantry.

Bring finger foods & soft drinks to share. Make sure to invite your friends and family for a “super” time together.



In honor of National Mentoring Month, we say **THANK YOU** to all of our Mentors & Prayer Partners who are making a difference in the lives of children.

We are partnering with Lincoln Elementary School

Mr. Mike Wilson, Principal

Mrs. Wilma Stone, Community Connector

Our Students, Mentors & Prayer Partners

Da'mon is matched with Pastor David Cotto, Mentor and Pastor Sam Wollum, Prayer Partner.

Tate'yanna is matched with Pastor Tina Cotto, Mentor and Libby Husted, Prayer Partner.

Ahjahne is matched with Karen Birt, Mentor and Debbie Hilliard, Prayer Partner.

Travis is matched with Kathy Mann, Mentor and Pastor Debbie Vickers, Prayer Partner.

Damiaya is matched with Laura Hufford, Mentor and Dorothy Timmons, Prayer Partner.

Our Substitute Mentors are Ashley Clawson and Martha Rowland.

Want more info? See Laura Hufford, our Kids Hope Director. 937-536-6168



Clifton Ave. Programs

Pantry Outreach

Every 2nd & 3rd Saturday
 9:30am Breakfast
 10:00-11:30 Pantry
 If you want to volunteer, contact
 Sis Debbie Hilliard

uniqueblessed@aol.com

(937) 324-1138

Crusaders

Wednesdays at 6pm.

A Meal & Message

Thursdays 5:30-7:00pm
 Free dinner, warm fellowship, a
 word of encouragement

Celebrate Recovery

Starts back up mid-April, Fridays
 5:30-7:00pm
 Get help/healing for Hang-ups,
 Habits, & Hurts

Sunday School: 9:30am

Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am

Children's Church during preach-
 ing (approx. 11:30)

Sunday Evening Prayer:

5:00-6:00pm

**We are on the
 web....**

www.cliftonavechog.org

*Ask and it will be given to
 you; seek and you will find;
 knock and the door will be
 opened to you. For everyone
 who asks receives; he who
 seeks finds; and to him who
 knocks, the door will be
 opened.*

Matthew 7:7-8

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEACHERS

February 7th - Leigh & Linda

February 21st - Debbie H. & Martha

February 14th - TJ & Ashley

February 28th - Pastor Tina

Weeks	Tithes/Offerings	Needed	Attendance
12/27/2009	\$2,121.29	\$3,250.00	50
01/03/2010	\$1,935.34	\$3,250.00	44
01/10/2010	\$1,318.75	\$3,250.00	49
01/17/2010	\$3,033.37	\$3,250.00	53
Monthly Total	\$8,408.75	\$13,000.00	49 Avg.
Prev. Month (December)	\$7,633.01	\$13,000.00	84Avg.
Prev. Month (November)	\$7,257.93	\$13,000.00	65 Avg.



February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	2 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	3 Crusaders 6-7:15pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	4 M&M: 5:30-7pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	5 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	6
7 Sheila Applin Bday	8 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm T.J. Cotto Bday	9 N.A. 7-8:30pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	10 Crusaders 6-7:15pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	11 M&M: 5:30-7pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	12 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	13 Pantry: 930-Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry
14 Valentine's Day	15 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	16 N.A. 7-8:30pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm Laura Hufford Bday	17 Crusaders 6-7:15pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	18 M&M: 5:30-7pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	19 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	20 Pantry: 930-Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry Free H1N1 vaccine Couples Gathering 6pm
21 Lenten Season Begins This Week	22 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm George Crew Bday	23 N.A. 7-8:30pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm Kim Johnson Bday	24 Crusaders 6-7:15pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm Libby Husted Bday	25 M&M: 5:30-7pm S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	26 S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm	27 Bob Timmons Bday
28						

Seek God for the City Lenten Season of Prayer & Fasting Begins