



THE
Spiceland Friend

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“Putting Down Roots”

“May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love.” Ephesians 3:17b (TLB)



By some standards, Linda and I are newcomers to Indiana. We have only been living here for 35 years. We have only been attending Spiceland Friends for 22 years. Others have been in SFC and in Indiana for generations – many generations. They have deep roots here. Those family members who went before them put down their roots here and generation after generation have followed those roots and put them down even deeper. We all like to feel like we have our roots down in our community and feel like we know where we belong. Even though we may be newcomers by some people’s standards, we feel like we have deep roots here. We have lived in the same house for 35 years. When we were younger, we moved a lot. During a five-year period of time when our kids were all very young, we lived in five

different houses! So, you can see that for us it seems that we have really settled down and put down our roots.

Our theme verse above directs us to put down our roots deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love. We know that God is love and we know that God offers that love to each of us. His offer is generous and never ending.

Some people like to preach and teach that God is a God of judgment and anger. They picture him just waiting for us to mess up so he can punish us. Fortunately, the Bible teaches us that God is actually filled with love, and He gives that love to us. He is willing to fill us with his love so that we can love others around us. While I was thinking about what it would mean if I began to put my roots down into God’s marvelous love, I decided to look at some scriptures that describe God’s love. There are many of course, but here are a few of my favorites from the Living Bible.

“Pay all of your debts except the debt of love for others – never finish paying that!” Romans 13:8

“May you be able to feel and understand, as all God’s children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself.” Ephesians 3:18-19

“For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away.” Romans 8:38

Putting Down Roots *(Continued)*

“But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus – the work of telling others the Good News about God’s mighty kindness and love.” Acts 20:24

“Love does no wrong to anyone. That’s why it fully satisfies all of God’s requirements. It is the only law you need.” Romans 13:10

“But the person who truly loves God is the one who is open to God’s knowledge.” 1 Corinthians 8:3

Meditate on these verses that describe the unfailing love of God. This is the love that we want to put our roots down deep into – year after year, generation after generation. Soak up His love and allow it to fill your life so that it overflows to others.

David Brock

Resolved

It’s that time of year when our commitment to the New Year’s resolution we made just a few weeks ago begins to flicker. A quick google search tells us that the top three reasons our motivation fails usually boils down to one of three reasons. Interestingly these three reasons parallel the parable of the farmer in Matthew 13.

The first reason for failure is a lack of understanding or lack of knowledge about the resolution itself. Research tells us that we need at least a basic understanding of what we are committing to in order to have success with following through. Often we fail at our new resolve simply because we lack understanding.

The second common reason for failure to follow through is interesting and a bit counter-intuitive. In reality many of us fail because we are just overly enthusiastic and emotional at the start of our resolution. An emotional decision is usually shallow and will fade with time.

The third reason we fail at our resolve is simple. Many times life just gets in the way. We find ourselves living life. Helping our kids and grandkids, getting to work to make a living, helping out in our church or a service organization, or just running errands for the day choke out our resolve. We can educate ourselves and work out the best of plans to complete our resolution only to discover a

few months later that we were so busy with life that we have forgotten the direction we were headed.

These three reasons compare well with the parable of the farmer in Matthew 13. Our walk with Christ takes nurture and care. Even though we can have times of great excitement and enthusiasm toward our relationship with Christ, we should never count on our emotions to maintain and grow our relationship. There are times when we just have to faithfully believe in him and his promises and the grace he has extended to us. Finally, we must not let other things in life choke out our relationship with Christ. Keeping our relationship with him as our daily priority takes great care. There are even times when we must get down on our knees and prune the garden. Get on those knees, ask for forgiveness, hit the reset button, and fire that relationship back up. Be resolved to grow with Christ and serve others this year. God is reaching out and others are reaching for our help.

The full version of this can be found on the blog page at spicelandfriends.org. Join me there every Friday for a weekly blog. **Read Matthew 13:18-23**

– Eric Bowman

Wednesday Night Bible Study – Begin Again by Max Lucado

Come join us for Wednesday night Bible Study starting February 17 and continuing through March 24. We will be reading and discussing Max



Lucado’s new book, Begin Again. We have all been struggling recently, and Max’s book will show us that God is a God of fresh starts. We need this opportunity to Begin Again!

We will have a meal at 6:00-6:45 p.m. provided by the church. **David Brock, Eric Bowman, and Nancy Wadman** will be leading a discussion of the book from 6:45-7:45. Books will be available in the Welcome Center for \$20 the first week of February. The chapters are short and easy to read.

We are also planning on putting this on Facebook Live so people who are more comfortable at home may join us for the book discussion.

Please see Nancy if you have any questions.

Sermon Topics for February



Bob Rust will be preaching on February 7.
David Brock will be preaching the other three Sundays in February.

February 7

Sermon – “Being Available”
Scripture – Isaiah 41:10; Joshua 1:9;
Matthew 28:18-20

February 14

Sermon – “Upside Down Relationships”
Scripture – Philippians 2:5-13

February 21

Sermon – “Shining Stars”
Scripture – Philippians 2:14-30

February 28

Sermon – “Putting Your Trust in the Wrong Things”
Scripture – Philippians 3:1-14

Thanks and Best Wishes to Virginia Bryson



It is with mixed emotions that we celebrate Ginny’s retirement from playing the organ at Spice-land Friends Church. She has gifted us with beautiful music for over 30 years. On Sunday,



January 31, we are having a reception to honor Ginny for all the years she has shared her special gift with our congregation. We will serve cake and punch right after church in the Family Center. This will be a perfect time to congratulate and thank her for her many years of service to our church. Thankfully, she and Ed are not going anywhere and will continue to be a vital part of our church family. Please join us for this special time of celebration!

Please Remember in Prayer



Church Family

David Lahr – hip replacement surgery
George Fort – recovering from back surgery
Barbara Lacy – upcoming cataract surgery
Matthew Bowman – heart procedure
Jenny McDaniel – recovering from surgery
Family of Juanita Setree
Tom Weber – health concerns
Judy Smith – health problems
George Lacy – lung cancer
Steve Stevens – health concerns
Rick Little – recovering from cancer
Darlene Darling – at home
Linda Rutherford – breast cancer; chemo
Kathy Painter – at home recovering
Marilyn Thompson – Bell’s palsy
Don & Barbara Meade – health problems
Irene Goodwin – health problems
Pat Bogue – problems with both eyes
Darrell & Janet Craft – Janet – ankle surgery;
Darrell – knee surgery

Extended Family and Friends

Jeff & Joyce Stewart (Pam Pyle) – both are sick
Family of Jim Rains (Tim Wilkinson’s brother-in-law)
Kenon Gray (Nancy Wadman) – Covid-19; on ventilator
Prayers for friend and their family (Joanne Anderson)
Becky Muse (Marilyn Thompson) – back surgery
Family of Jan Spurgin
Family of Jill Gossage
Robert Kleeman (Linda Van Osdol’s brother) – gallbladder infection, pneumonia, and COVID- 19
Shelly Carrera (Sandy White) – breast cancer
Jan Hurst (Sister of Judy Stevens) – health issues
Emma – 8-year-old with brain tumor (Marilyn Ingle)
Daughters of Cindy Mitchell – Amy – COVID;
Brooke – cancer
Michelle McKullip (Marilyn Thompson) – cancer
Julie Delay (Kandi Rutledge) – cancer
Family of David Baker – COVID-19
Jill Stansberry (Claudia Garner) – mass removed from spine
Jay French (Linda Ratcliff) – cancer
(Continued on back)

Please Remember in Prayer *(Continued)*

Shelly McIntosh – breast cancer
Grandson of Ray & Naomi Wagner (David Baker) –
in hospital in critical condition
Sue Engle (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Brooke Runyon (Cindy Mitchell) – cancer
Alice Womack – heart issues
Andy Davis (Janet Putnam) – cancer has returned
Megan (Kandi Rutledge's granddaughter) – health
issues
Jennifer (Debi Zimmerman) – breast cancer
Juan (Beverly Reece) – 7-year-old whose organs are
failing
Charlene Haugh (Claudia Garner) – recovering from
bad stroke
Parents of Teresa Batt
Joyce Lacy (Sandi Swann) – needs prayer
Joyce Butler (Sara Jane Stegner) – COVID-19
Doug Schweikhardt – cancer
Cain Kneply (Brian Thomas) – surgery on both hips
Catherine Scott (Amie Thornburg) – ALS; severe
lung infection; is on ventilator
Byron Hanes (Relative of Pam Reno) – radiation
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – breast cancer
Emogene Putnam (Jim Putnam's mother) – uterine
cancer
Students, teachers, and school administrators
Our country and servicemen and women
Prison Staff and Prisoners
Long-term care facilities staff and residents dealing
with COVID-19

Notes of Thanks

"Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts
& prayers."

– **Dave & Kat Jessup**
Family of Max Jessup

"Thank you for the flowers in honor of
Nancy (Coffin) Coleman."

– **Richey Gardner**



With Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Juanita Setree** upon her passing on January 13 in Florida. She was 96 years of age and a long-time member of Spiceland Friends Church.



Worship Assistants for February

Scripture Readers

February 7 – Linda Ratcliff
February 14 – Teresa Batt
February 21 – Chris Garner
February 28 – Doris Hoover

Children's Story

February 7 – Mike Van Osdol
February 14 – Janet Putnam
February 21 – Mike Van Osdol
February 28 – Linda Brock

Greeter – Mary Van Osdol

2021 Church Directory is Now Available

The new church directory has been printed and is ready for pick up. They are available in the back of the Worship Center at Spiceland Friends Church. Changes and additions will be printed in the newsletter as they are received.



Be a Disciple

A girl returning home from Sunday School expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the days lesson. "We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat there!"