Family Ties

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL 499 Wacouta Street St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 222-0718 www.firstbaptiststpaul.org

• February 2017•

I Corinthians 3:4-9 For we are partners together working for God. Unity Sunday, January 29, 2017

By Rev. Bill Englund & Rev. Saul Lu

The church that the Apostle Paul planted was not a well-behaved or perfect congregation. It had several excellent teachers and leaders, yet it struggled with many of the same problems facing churches today. The Corinthian church was an example of what ordinary churches look like: sinners saved by grace. Paul's letter is very personal and full of straight talk for a church working through some everyday as well as complicated problems.

Corinth was a relatively young city: less than 100 years old. Many different people had settled there: Greeks, Romans and Jews. It may have been the most famous city in the Roman Empire — second only to Rome itself. There were many popular athletic events and gladiator battles held there. It was a major center for pagan religions. In recent times, twelve temples have been discovered at Corinth. The Temple of Aphrodite, goddess of love employed at least 1,000 temple prostitutes who played a part in the pagan religious ceremonies.

The people of Corinth had the reputation in the ancient world as a badly behaved, hard drinking, sexually active bunch of people. When Paul arrived with the Good News of Jesus Christ and many of them became believers, they brought their reputations with them right into the church. Paul spent a year and a half with them as their pastor, going over the Message in detail, showing them how to live out this new life of salvation and holiness as a communi-

ty of believers. Then he went on his way to other towns and churches.



Servants who plant the seeds.

Sometime later, Paul received a report from one of the Corinthian families that while he had been away things had more or less fallen apart. Divisions had developed, morals were in disrepair, worship had slipped into selfish patterns of people grasping for the supernatural. He directs them gently how to work all the the glorious details of God's saving love into their love for one another.

Paul needed to communicate effectively with people from different backgrounds and cultures: people who spoke several different languages. Paul, himself, probably spoke three or four in his ministry: Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Aramaic. There were many forces at work in Corinth that were threatening to tear apart the new community.

READ I CORINTHIANS 3:4-9

First Baptist Church is a congregation of several languages and cultures. I am proud of what we have done together. I believe that God has brought us together for a purpose: to be an example of what the love of God can do in a community.

The past two weeks I have preached from Isaiah. Isaiah used the term "Servant of the Lord". I said that I believed that this Servant of the Lord did not refer to an individual person but to the people of

Israel who together were to be a light to all the world. Last week we talked about the Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his vision of the "Beloved Community." God's power and justice was displayed as people marched and protested nonviolently.

I believe First Baptist Church is called to become a "Beloved Community": a group of people called together by God to demonstrate God's community-creating power.

I would like to use the Apostle Paul's words to the Corinthians and apply them to us here, today.

In verse five he says, "who is Apollos, who is Paul?" I would like to paraphrase this and say "who are Judson and Ko Tha Byu? Who are the other missionaries who came to Burma later and the early Karen pastors? Who are Pastor Saul and Pastor Bill?" All of them are simply God's servants by whom you were led to believe. Each one doing what the Lord gave them to do. Judson and Ko Tha Byu planted the seeds. Those who came later watered the plants, but it was God who made the plants grow."

Who could have imagined a Christian garden growing and flourishing in a Buddhist land? How could a persecuted, small minority of followers of Christ grow and grow when all around them people did not believe or understand? Who could have imagined Karen and American-born people coming together in the United States in a mutual transforming partnership?

"The ones who plant and the ones who water really do not matter. It is God who matters and makes the plants grow." For you are all partners working together for God and First Baptist Church is God's field."

What is happening here is not a human accomplishment. This is a new thing that could only spring from the mind and heart of God. God, through Jesus Christ has brought us together. We recognize that we are brothers and sisters with Christ as the head. We are sisters and brothers even though we speak different languages and have come from different traditions. We look different from one another, we eat different food, we wear different clothing. But we are united in Christ. Even though we are

imperfect people who always seem to be leaning into sin, still it is Christ who unites us and allows us to become the Beloved Community.

As we stand and work together, Christ is able to be seen through us. In faith we believe that light of Christ enters the world through us. We become the Servant of the Lord and the world is awakened to the presence of God at work within us.

SONG

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land Any they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love Yes, they'll know we are Christians by Our love.

Unity Candle Lighting Liturgy

Event prepared by Sheila Ahlbrand

Reader 1: Today we come together to light a Unity candle symbolizing the commitment to Unity between First Baptist Church and First Baptist Church Karen.

Reader 2: We understand that both First Baptist Church and the Karen people have long histories, full of stories and traditions.

Reader 1: First Baptist's history includes stories about Harriet Bishop and the many pastors who have served this church as well as the many groups who have worshipped together here. But it also includes stories of people who have attended this church, stories which can be found in photographs, plaques and even stained glass that are part of this church building. But these stories are also found in the hearts and minds of all those who remember them. The history of First Baptist Church is one of strangers taken in, of meals shared, and of God's love both preached and practiced.

Reader 2: The history of the Karen people is very

long and includes stories of the legend of the Golden Book, of Adoniram Judson and Ko Tha Pyu as well as stories of life in the jungle and the camps, and the journey to the United States. The history of the Karen people is found in the stories of people who are sitting with us today and of people who remain in Burma and of the many who are no longer with us. It is a history of God's presence watching over and protecting a people through times of darkness and danger. It is a history full of prayer and song, and perhaps most importantly it is a story of hope and faith.

Reader 1: At this time I would ask a deacon from each church to come forward and light the candles on either side of the Unity candle.

(The candles are lit)

Reader 2: The lights of these two candles represent First Baptist Church and First Baptist Church Karen and as they shine they remind us of all the stories and memories, traditions and histories that are unique to each of them.

Reader 1: As these lights shine they remind us of what is beautiful and unique about both of these communities that will continue to shine brightly on their own even as we come together.

Reader 2: At this time I would ask Pastor Bill and Pastor Saul Lu to each take one of the candle that are lit and light the Unity candle together.

(The candles are lit)

Reader 1: As we light this Unity candle it symbolizes bringing our individual stories, histories and traditions together in order to form one community.

Reader 2: Just as Pastor Saul Lu and Pastor Bill stood side by side to light this candle, so we will all need to stand side by side to work together in order to be a true community.

Reader 1: We will need to work together to share our memories and to create new ones.

Reader 2: We will need to work together to teach each other our individual traditions and to create new ones.

Reader 1: We will need to be patient with each other and listen carefully.

Reader 2: We will need to learn to compromise and try new things.

Reader 1: We will need to appreciate and accept each other's differences.

Reader 2: We will need to remember that it is God who brings us together in unity.

Reader 1: In the light of this candle we see the light of Christ who called us to be one.

Reader 2: In the light of this candle we are reminded of the hope that shines as we move forward together – our lights shining brighter as they are brought together in one light. Amen

တာ်ဖွဲ့ ဉ်ပနဲတာဉ်လာအမဲ့ာတာ်ဟိဖျါထီဉ်တာ်သးတဖျာဉ်ယီ အတာ်အာဉ်လီးလာပမဲ့ာ်ပုံးတဖုယီ

ပှာဖးတါနီဂ်ါ၁). တနံးအီးပဟဲတပူးယီဒီးနွဲဉ်ကပီးထီဉ်ပနဲဉ် တာဉ်, လာအမ့်ာတာပနိဉ်အတာ်အာဉ်လီးလာပဝဲဘျာထံဆိကီး လာဝါဒီးဘျာထံဆိပှာကညီနှဉ်ပမ့်းပှာတဖုဃီလီး.

ပှာဖေတါနီဂ်ဂ် ၂). ပနာပြာလျပဝဘျာထံဆိသရိဉ်အာံးဒီးပဝက ညီဖိတဖဉ်အတာ်ဘဉ်ထွဲလာအယံာ်တာ့်အေး, ပိတ်ထွဲထိဉ်အခံလာ အလာအပြားဒီးတာ်စံဉ်စီးတဲစီး, လုံးလာ်ဒီးတာ်အိဉ်မူအတာ်ဘဉ် ထွဲသဲ့ဉ်တဖဉ်နှဉ်လီး.

ပှာဖေးတာ်နှိုဂ်ဂ်ာ). ဘျာထံဆိတာ်အိုခ်ဖိုခ်အတာ်စံခ်စီးအံး, ဟ် ယုာ်နီးမိာ်လုာ်နိုခ်ပူးနိုခ် Harriet Bishop (ဟဲရံခ်ဘံရှီး)နီးတာ် အိုခ်ဖို့ ခ်သရခ်သဲ့ ခ်တဖခ်လာအဟဲ့ ခ်လီးတာ့ အသေးလာသ ရိခ်အားအင်္ဂါ, နီးတကားဘခ်တ်ယုာ်နီးကရုက်ားဖုန်းနီးပှာကိုးဂါ လာအဘါသက်းတစ်အားလာပူးကွဲခ်မှုဂ်ားနီးခံအားမှုာ်ဂုံးနှဉ် လီး. ပကထံခ်ဘခ်ပှာအေါဂါအတာဂြီးတဖခ်လာဘခ်တာ်ကျား လီးလာတာရခော်ကပာမှုဂ်ား, လံခ်တာ်ဟဲ့ခ်ကနားမှုာဂ်ာသော်တာ်တဲ့ ယာ်တဲ့ာ်လံအားလာလံခ်တစ်ခံခ်စီးတဲစီးအပူးမှုာ်ဂုံးနှဉ်လီး. ပှာ သဲ့တဖခ်အားမှုာ်ပုံးသဲ့တဖခ်လာအနားအိုခ်ထိခ်တာ်တာ်သူခ်ထိခ် အားနီးဟဲ့ခ်တဲ့ာ်ပုံးသားလာပကသဲ့ခ်နှိုခ်အစသဲ့ခဲ့ဖခန့်နှင်လီး. ဘျာ ထံဆိတာ်အိုခ်ဖိုခ်အတာစံခ်စီးအားပတ်ဖျဲထီခံတာ်တုံးလိခ်ပာတ ဂၤလာလာလာအသားအိုခ်တဲ့, နီးတာ်ဟဲ့ခ်ခီလီးနီးလီးလိခ်သား ကစာ်ယွာတာစြာခံတဖခန့်ခဲ့လီး. ပှာဖေးတာ်နိုဂ်ဂ်၂). ကညီဖိအတာ်စံဉ်စီးတဖဉ်ထီဝဲဒိဉ်မးလီး. တာ်စံဉ်စီးအံးလီးက်န်သိုးနီးလံာ်ထူလာဘဉ်တာ်ကွဲအီးနှဉ်လီး. လာလံာ်ထူတာ်စံဉ်စီးတဲစီးအတာ်ကွဲအပူးဟ်ယုာ်နီး Adoniram Judson(အဲဉ်နိဉ်နံဉ်ရဲဉ်မ် ကျူဉ်စာဉ်)နီးခိဉ်သဉ် ဖွူနှဉ်လီး. တကားဘဉ်တာ်စံဉ်စီးအံးဟ်ယုာ်နီးပဝဲလာဆေ့ဉ်နီး သက်းဖဲအံးကိုးဂၤ, ကညီဖိလာအအိုဉ်လာခိခိဉ်ပှာ်လာကျေါ့, ကညီဖိလာအသုံးလီးသုံးကျဲဆူကာ်အဓရကဉ်,နီးနီပုုံဝါလာ အအိုဉ်တာ့်လာကာပြယီးပူးတဖဉ်နီးလာအလဲးပူးတာ့စ်တစ်နှဉ့်လီး.တာ်စံဉ်စီးအံးဟ်မျော်တကစ်ယွာအတာ်ကဟုကယာ်နီးအ တာ်နီသနာပုံးလာပကပူးဖျဲးထီဉ်ကွဲာ်လာတာ်ခံတာ်နားနီးတာ်အား တာ်သီလီး. တဘျီယီဟ်မျာထီဉ်ဝဲနဉ်လာပအိုင်နီးတာ်ထုက ဖဉ်, တာ်သားဝဲဉ်စီးထီဉ်ပတြားကစာ်ယွာ, နီးပတာ်မုာ်လာနီးပ တာနာာနှာ့်လီး.

ပှာဖးတါနီါဂ်ါ၁). လာတာ်ဆာကတိာ်အား, ယအဲဉ်ဒီးလာတာ် အိဉ်ဖိုဉ်သဲးထီးတဖဉ်ကဟဲနွဲဉ်ထီဉ်တာ်ယူတာ်ဖီးပနဲဉ်တာဉ်နှဉ် လီး.

ပှာဖးတာနိုဂ်ဂ်၂). ပနဲတာဉ်အတာ်ကပီးလာအကပီးထိဉ်ခံခါ အံး ပဉ်ဖျါထီ ဉ်ဒီးဒူးသဲ့ ဉ်နီ ဉ်ထီ ဉ်ပှာလာပတာ်စံ ဉ်စီး, ပလုၢ်လာ်ထူသနူအတာ်ဘဉ်ထွဲယာ်ခီယာ်ဘားနှဉ်လီး.

ပှာဖူးတါနီဂိဂ် ၁). ပမ္နါကွာ်တါကပီးအတာဆဲးကပြုအေး, နူး သူ့ ၁ နီဉ်ထိခ်ပှာလ၊ပကစိခ်ီတါကပီးလ၊ကစါယွာဟုခ်တ့၊ပှာ ယါခ်ီယါဘးအံးတဂၤလ၊ပလိါပသနာခြဲနေခဲ့လီး.

ပုၤဖးတါနီါဂ်ါ၂). အခဲအံးမ်ပတါအိုဉ်ဖိုဉ်သရဉ်ကဟံန္ဉ်ပနဲ တာဉ်လ၊အနွဲဉ်ထိဉ်ဃဉ်အသးအံးဒီးနွဲဉ်ထိဉ်ကူးအီးတခါဃီ တက္ခါ.

ပှာဖေးတာ်နီးဂ်ာ်၁). တဘျီအံး, တာ်ကပီးဟ်ဖျါထီဉ်ဝဲလၢပက ဟဲစိာ်ဒီးဟဲ့ဉ်ခ်ီနီးလီးပတာ်စံဉ်စိးဒီးပလုံးလာ်ထူသနူဒ်သိုးပ ကနားအိဉ်ထီဉ်ပမ့်းပုံးတဝးတဖုန့ဉ်လီး.

ပှာဖူးတါနီဂ်ဂ်၂). ဒ်ပထံဉ်ဘဉ်လ၊ပသရဉ်ဒိဉ်တဖဉ်အံးဆ၊ ထာဉ်သဃၤလိဉ်သႏအသိး, ပလိုဘဉ်လ၊ပဝဲကိုးဂၤပကဆာ ထာဉ်သဃၤလိဉ်သးဒီးမၤသကိုးတါဒ်အမ္နါပှာတဝ၊တဖုလ၊အ တီလိဉ်အသးတက္နါ.

ပှာဖေးတါနီဂိဂ်၁). ပလိ႞ဘဉ်လ၊ကပမၤသကိုးတါလ၊ပက ဟံ့ခိနီးလီးလိခ်သးပတါလဲးခီဖိတဖဉ်နီးနုးအိုခ်ထီခိုတါအ သီလ၊အကြားဝဲဘဉ်ဝဲလ၊ပကစိဉ်ခီအီးဆူညါတမံးယီနေ့ခ်လီး. ပှာဖေးတါနီဂိဂ်၂). မ်ပကသိခ်လိလိခ်သးပလုဂ်လာထူသနူအယံ အလၤတဖခ်နီးနုးအိုခ်ထီခ်တာ်အသီတခါလ၊ပကစိဉ်ခီအီးဆူ ညါတမံးယီတက္နာ.

ပု၊ဖးတါနီါဂ်ါ၁). မ်ပကအိဉ်ဇီးတါဝံသးစူၤဇီးတါဇိကနဉ်လိ

သးလီးတံ၊လီးဆဲးယၢ်ခ်ီယာ်ဘးတက္နာ်.

ပုၤဖးတါနီါဂ်႑).

မ်ပကသူမၤလိန္နါတါတူ၊လိာ်လိာသးတဂၤဇီးတဂၤဇီးဒုးအိုဉ် ထိဉ်တါအသီလၢအကြားဝဲဘဉ်ဝဲတက္နါ.

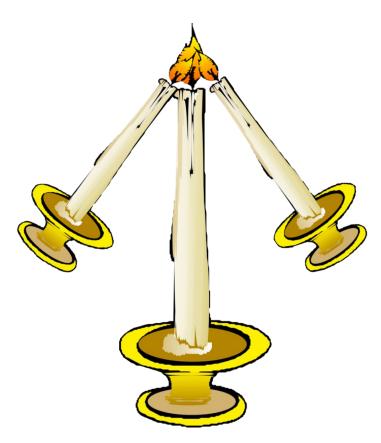
ပုၤဖးတါနီါင်္ဂျီ၁).

မ်ပကသစံးဘူးလိဉ်သးဒီးတူါလိဉ်လိဉ်သးတဂၤဒီးတဂၤတါ လီးဆီလိဉ်သးတဖဉ်တက္နါ.

ပူးဖူးတါနီါဂ်ါ၂). မ်ပကသံ့ဉ်နီဉ်ထီဉ်လာကစါယွာဟ်ယှာ်ပွာ လာပကမ္ခါပူးတဖုဃီတက္နါ.

ပှာဖေးတာ်နှိုဂ်ဂ်ာ). လာတာ်ဖွဲ့ ဉ်ပနဲ့တာဉ်အား, မ်ပထံဉ်ကစာ်ယှဉ် ဂူးအတာ်ကပီးလာအကီးပှာလာပမ့ာ်တဂၤဃီတမံးဃီလာခရံဉ် ပူးတက္စာ.

ပှာဖေးတါနီါဂ်၊၂). လ၊တါနွဲဉ်ပနဲတာဉ်အံး, ပဘဉ်တါနူးသည် နီဉ်ထီဉ်ပှာလ၊ပတါမုါလါလ၊အမါ့ပတါကပီးတဖဉ်အံးကန် ယံဉ်န်ကပီးထီဉ်နိဉ်ထီဉ်ကျွ့်ကျွှ်တူးလ၊မါ့တါကပီးဖမ်းနိဉ်ထဲ တခါတက္ခါ. အာမူး



March 2017 Capping Birthday

1. James Aye Hsar Mu Lah Pa Htoo

3. Hilda Young Deb Kessler Ghu Too Dah Dah

4. Hgaw Gyi Hai Paw

5. Jac Kee Saw Hseet Hseet Ker Mo Mo

Hser Ti

6. Emmalina Englund

7. Hei Bult

8. Eulise Heh

9. Dar Kee Naw Eh Wah Moo Lay

10. Paw Say

Dah Keh

Pleh Wah Istan-

bulyan

11. Carl Allen

12. Johcina Day Air Kur Thin Ni Lu Ephrain Ku Ther The Too

13. Eiddy Soe

14. Su Aye Ber Blute Htoo Lu Endeana Kyaw

15. Julianne Heil Tun Myi Aung Eh Day Tabee Tha Lu Moo Htoo

16. Timothy Brown

17. Moon Po Chit

18. Lwee Htoo

Moo Lah Ta Mu Thaing

19. Mo Mo Ko Dway

20. Christina Lay

21. Wah Wah Zan

22. Isabelle Thapaw

23. Si Toe

Aye May Kan

Saw Bryar

24. Joshua Gibbs Ram Bo Gyi Tina Tee Lillyanna Htoo

25. Thi Htoo Silver Mu Mu Soe

26. Egbert Aye Hser Men Koe Shei Shei Po Chair Leh

27. Janice Lange
Daniel Thomas Ser
The K Paw

28. Roger Maung

30. Yeh Yeh Sein Mway Lah Bu Le Pei Htoo Tamla Wah Has Lwe Ku

31. Joan Hohman Car San Htoo

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Carol Ann Johnson Earl Swanlund
Luchene Donazal Mary Cisneros
Shirley Sweum

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER

Health Concerns

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY TO YOU

WHO WERE

BORN IN MARCH.

WE WISH YOU

A LONG LIFE .

MAY YOUR DAY

BRING YOU HAP-

PINESS AND

LIGHT.

- Erin Denning in remission in her cancer treatment
- Hsar Shee
- Eh Doh Wah
- Hsa Htoo
- Aye Saw, recovering stroke
- Say Blut
- Rosilin Nyo
- Shany, cancer
- Gladys Englund, hospice
- Mike Spreigl
- Gay Ler

Ongoing Strength & Protection

- Clerveau & Luchene Donazal
- Robert Toe & family
- Pu Ma Kha and family
- Rosie Salinas & family

Special Request

- ROW assessment
- Newly arrived refugee families
- Internally displaced people in Burma & refugee camps along Thai-Burma border
- People who are looking for work
- Maggie Porter



PRAYER COVENANT FOR FEBRUARY

Father, thank you for bringing us together to praise you and honor you. Please increase our understanding and relationship to each other in you. *Amen*

ထ့ကူာ်လါတၢ်ထုကဖဉ်

ပါ၏, တာဘူးလာနဟ်ယုဉ်ပူးလာပကစံးထိဉ်ပတြားနီးမာလာကပီး နာလီး. ဝံသးစူးမား ေဆြီဉ်ပတာ်နာ်ပာါလိဉ်သးနီးပတာ်ရဲ့လိဉ်သးလာက စာ်အပူးတက္နာ်. *အားမှာ*း

a Closer Walk

by Geri Johnson

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Be strong in the Lord and in God's mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so you can take your stand against evil. Ephesians 6:10,11



God wants us to stand firm against evil with: the belt of TRUTH, the breast-plate of JUSTICE, and shoes from the Gospel of PEACE. In addition need a shield of FAITH, the helmet of SALVATION

(God's saving power), and the sword of the SPIRIT ((God's message). Pray all

the time! Always pray boldly and earnestly by the power of God's spirit for all Christians everywhere.

In these troubling times, I find these words comforting, realizing I'm not alone; God has promised to be with me at all times, wherever I am. Paul says that God wants us to stand firm, be alert, and pray always. In reality, we wouldn't wear armor to protect ourselves, but Paul is using this image to illustrate that God will protect us and keep us safe.

The main theme of this passage is that we stand firm against evil. God wants us to be truthful, just, peaceful, faithful, be aware of God's saving power and the power of God's Spirit. Wow! I was feeling apprehensive about our future, but when I read what Paul wrote to the faithful people of Ephesus, I feel empowered. Paul speaks from his heart about love and unity. He ends the letter by telling the people that he sends them God's peace, love and grace. May we also pray for these things for ourself and each other.

Prayer: God of Peace, Thank you for Paul, whose words continue to bless us and empower us to stand firm and be alert against evil. We pray that your peace, love and grace be in our hearts. Amen.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, March 3-March 4

6:00pm - 6:00am

Women Prayer Night

Saturday, March 11 10:30am — Board of Decons

Meeting

12:00pm — Church Council

Meeting

Sunday, March 12 – March 25

KBCUSA will use rooms for

Bible Study

Friday, March 17 7:00pm - 9:00pm — TLC party

Monday, March 20 5:30pm — Trustees Meeting

Sunday, March 26 10:00am — Sheila Ahlbrand

will preach

Friday, March 31- April 1

6:00pm - 7:00am 24 hours Famine

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to remember especially these members and friends who have died during the month of March over the last five years. May God's Grace and peace be with their loved ones at this time.

Steve Links - March 12, 2013

Jim Genia- March 30, 2013

Del Nelson - March 1, 2014

Esther Borden - March 15, 2015

Alan Hohman - March 8, 2016

Thomas Sebo - March 12, 2016

Harriet Balian - March 12, 2016

Overlander Maung - March 27, 2016