

## A SOFT ANSWER

Two boys were sent to the principle's office after an altercation in the classroom. The principle asked the first boy, Billy, "What did you do when Ed called you a liar?" Billy proudly responded, "I remembered what the teacher taught us that, "A soft answer turns away anger."



The principle was puzzled. "Then why were you sent to my office, Billy?" Billy looked at the stained face of Ed standing beside him and explained, "I answered him with a soft tomato!"

## THE WAY TO GO

A man had stated in his will, "I want six of my creditors for pallbearers...they have demonstrated such compassion for so long as they have carried me from year to year so they might as well finish the job!"



## THINGS CHANGE

Suddenly feeling romantic, Fred's wife looked across at her husband, saying, "When we were younger, you used to nibble on my ear." Fred gets up and starts to leave the room. "Where are you going," his wife asks. He replies, "To get my teeth!"



## The Kindness Wave



Start a ripple... Create a wave.  
It begins with YOU!

## SWEET WORDS

As Jerry sat watching TV with his wife, Terri, his wife snuggled against him on the couch and whispered softly into his ear, "Say something soft and sweet." Without hesitation, Jerry turned and uttered just one word, "Marshmallow!"



## WHAT'S THAT?

A husband, attempting to prove to his wife that women talk more than men, showed her a study that indicated men use on average only fifteen thousand words a day, whereas women use thirty thousand words a day. "Well," she replied, "that's because women have to repeat everything they say when they're talking to men." "What's that?" her husband asked.



**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

**Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!**



# GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

**First Baptist Church Strathroy**

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## The Words to Say I Love You

I was there, yet you did not see Me  
the times you did cry  
I wrapped you in My loving arms  
and wiped the tears from your eyes.  
Every prayer – I heard, and answered  
every cry for help – I came  
I cast down all your enemies  
and brought them all to shame.

You are My beloved son  
whom I have set free  
I removed your chains of darkness  
because you believed in Me.  
I am in you and you in Me  
None can take us apart  
Where are the words to express my  
love?  
They are written on your heart.

~ Jennifer Kulp

## What's inside...

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**Sunday, 11 a.m. Services.** [effective Sep 8<sup>th</sup>]

**20 Centre Street W., Strathroy, Ontario**

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**Thot:** "A loving friend is someone who will laugh at your jokes when they're not so funny, and cry with you in your circumstances even when they're not so bad." ~ Unknown

## THE JOB

A Husband rushed into his house. "I've found a great job!" he exclaimed to his wife. "The pay is incredible, they offer free medical insurance, and they give 3 weeks' vacation." "That sounds wonderful," his wife responded. "I'm glad you think so," replied her husband. "You start tomorrow!"



## BEING GENEROUS

A wife looked across the breakfast table and told her husband, "I dreamed you gave me \$100 for summer clothes last night. You wouldn't spoil that dream, would you dear?" "Of course not, darling. You may keep the \$100."



### Something to Think About...

*"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins" ~ 1 Peter 4:8.*

Our Lord has been pressing me these days to put every effort into loving others. I'm not talking about the emotional, usually selfish, emotions that Hollywood depicts or that magazines and TV fill our minds with thinking we deserve. The pop singer, Tina Turner made a hit out of asking, "Oh-oh, what's love got to do, got to do with it? What's love but a second-hand emotion?". That kind of philosophy only leaves us burdened with disappointment and regret. But Turner raises a good question - what does love have to do with it? Perhaps one of the most known verses in scripture is John 3:16 which simply displays our heavenly Father's love for us, "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*". Not only does this verse describe what God chose to do for us when we could do nothing for ourselves, but it defines what love is and demonstrates how we too are to love; to love one another as brothers and sisters; to love our neighbour as ourselves, and to even love our enemy.

The apostle John wrote, "*God is love*" (1 John 4:7), to remind us that as we have accepted Him as our Lord, we should demonstrate the same character that is His in the way we love. Love isn't something, then, that we 'fall into' so that we can just as easily 'fall out of'. Nor is it a whimsical feeling that can vanish the first time our egos are bruised. Love is a choice; one we make each day. It's the choice, first, to not be left to the so-called blindness of love because as Christians - Christ's followers - our lives are to constantly be in the all-inclusive purpose of God. And that love is the divine element that encompasses our lives, fills us with God's presence, pours peace, kindness, patience and faithfulness with the leading of the Spirit in us (see Galatians 5:22-23 for full list of Christian attributes). Because we've been so deeply loved by God,

there's a sacredness that must be nurtured as we have compassion for one another.

In essence, such love is the badge of the believer in this world. Jesus taught a new commandment, "*that you love one another just as I have loved you...by this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another*" (John 13:34-35). The apostle Peter encourages us to love earnestly or fervently, striving to reach the goal set before us, picturing an intensity in our actions of love for one another. Christian love requires we work at it the same way an athlete commits to developing his or her skills. It's a dedicated will that takes hold of one's emotions, committing to treat others the way God treats us, obey His Word, so that, through His presence, we even love the people we don't like because we have made that choice to love.

Not only is Christian love fervent as a choice we make, but it's for-giving. Proverbs 10:12 tells us, "*Hate stirs up strife, but love covers all offences.*" I'm not suggesting that Christian love condones sins - if we love, we also grieve for our brother or sister who sins; we are broken when they are hurt by their choices or when others are hurt by those choices. Rather, love covers sin as Godly love motivates us to not tear down our brother or sister, not to use gossip to spread it around, and not to destroy them but to work to build them up in faith, to forgive and welcome them as they seek forgiveness, and, having forgiven, to no longer hold it against them. Let's face it we've all sinned and none of us can hide our sin from God. When Noah got drunk and shamefully uncovered himself, his son Ham told of it to the family, but his other two sons covered their father and his shame. What a picture of what Jesus Christ has done for each of us.

Our Christian love should not only encompass our fervent love for one another, and our forgiveness when our brothers and sisters falter, but it must also be practical. Love isn't love if it is not put into action. This requires humility, a willingness to look out and see the needs of others, and the courage to share what we are blessed with for those in need - generously, uncomplaining, sacrificially and without expectation of remuneration. We often refer to exhibition of such love as service. It's because of Christ who came from God to serve us and gave Himself for us that each of us must use the gifts we've received for the glory of God and for His church.

### Mark Your Calendar!

September 1<sup>st</sup> - Communion

September 8<sup>th</sup> - Service at 11 a.m.

September 14<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast

**Saturday at 8:30 a.m.**

**Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.**

Weekly Prayer (FBCS Godwinks' Café)

**New Message Series**

**Starts Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Following the Master!**

**Come and join us!**