



*"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."
- Charles Spurgeon*

*Being a disciple means deliberately identifying yourself with God's interests in other people.
~ Oswald Chambers*

I had occasion to know a woman so disagreeable that no one in church could stand to be in her company. Wouldn't you know she never missed a service. The children in her neighborhood vandalized her property in retaliation for her unfriendly treatment of them. She was all the trolls under the bridge, Medusa and Cinderella's stepmother rolled into one 5' 4" frame. Her appearance was unkempt and she had a tongue so sharp it could clip a hedge. The wise kept their distance. I am not being unduly harsh in my description. She was *worse* than I have shared.

She met her match in the kind, firm, godly man sent to be our pastor. Pastor Ronny didn't avoid her or throw her out of the body. He aligned himself with God's intentions for her soul and became an irresistible force bent on freeing Mary Magdalene's meaner sister by the chain-breaking, heart-softening power of God.

The Cliff Notes version is that his success was overwhelming, her transformation jaw dropping. Her repentance was genuine. Everyone she had injured received an apology. Her marriage was healed. Her property left in peace. Christ shone from her face. I saw a pretty woman with long beautiful hair where a termagant had stood.

Our pastor partnered with God's plan for her restoration. He did not allow the harsh picture facing him to speak louder than the promises that were hers in Christ, or his for that matter. He had to see as God saw.

In My Utmost for His Highest, Chambers cautions against living by our natural affections because there will always be people who put us off but those feelings must not rule our Christ-life. Christ is not looking for us to just be a good person or even to act like a good Christian. He is looking for us to model God Himself in this world.

To walk in the light as He walks in the light and have fellowship one with another. (1 John 1:7)

He is looking for John LaMantia to see what Jesus saw from the Cross and counted the price to heal it all joy. Jesus saw the men and women

who invent lie after lie to keep using. Jesus saw the parents who have failed parenting and whose children pray Mom or Dad will live at the Mission forever and never come home. He saw it all and yet He stretched His arms wide and took the shame of it upon His own gentle heart and looked down through the ages to a building on Tudor Road, where that joy would welcome the unwelcome to the table. It isn't enough for us to *be good* here. We have to walk in the light and be the light, "to purposefully identify with God's interest in others." We can't miss it through any mistaken personal preference that would leave that place at the table empty.

This Thanksgiving finds us in a world full of conflict and criticism. In these divisive times, it is easy to become caught up looking for political and social solutions to address the problems of our fallen world. While it is true we must do our best to find answers as a community, our true mission as ones who know Him, is to bring the lost into the Kingdom of God.

To that end let's not withhold ourselves. Let's pour out graciousness as freely as we pour the gravy. Let's reconsider people we unfriended, family we crossed off our Christmas list because they cancelled out our vote. Let's deal with the challenging people in our lives in unexpected ways just like Jesus did. If we all try it, I think we will find there is really something to be thankful for this year. It was, after all, one glimpse of the joy set before Him.

May we all count our blessings and be a blessing. I continue to appreciate your encouragement and support. I feel your prayers and see their fruit daily in the lives touched by this ministry.

Thank you from all the souls here at the Mission. Lord, make us truly thankful.

Gratefully,

Pastor John LaMantia

November Memorials

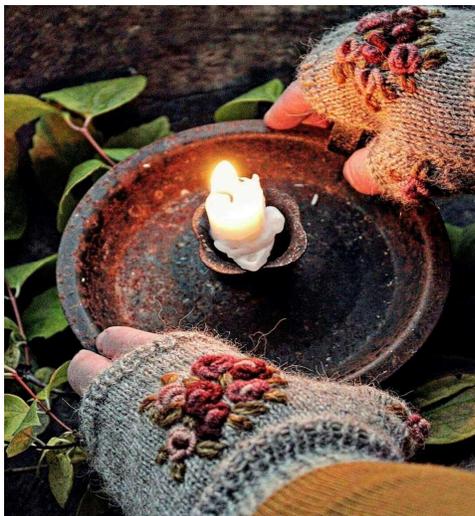
Memorial for: David Lawer	by: Mary Doppelfeld
Memorial for: Alton D. Sjodin	by: Mary Doppelfeld
Memorial for: Marilyn Dietrich	by: Jeffrey & Jean Sherman
Memorial for: Eleanor M. Anderson	by: Kenneth A. Anderson
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Michael & Lynn Boots
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Michael Tooley
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Bonnie Kragt
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Gayle Mathiesen
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Mona Saupe
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Russell & Wanda Lewis
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Robert & Kathleen Norton
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Mark Bergin & Linnea Knutson
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Jahna Rakos Pollock
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Laurence & Dahna Graham
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: John & Lisa Bulkow
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: William & Elaine Wilson
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: David & Diana Evans
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Claris M. Syren
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Loren & Carolyn Leman
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathiesen	by: Daniel Dieckgraeff and Denise Thanepohn
Memorial for: Fay Nieman	by: John LaMantia
Memorial for: Salvador Delatore	by: Kat LaMantia
Memorial for: Jill & Blakley Jourdan	by: John & Kathy LaMantia

Congratulations!

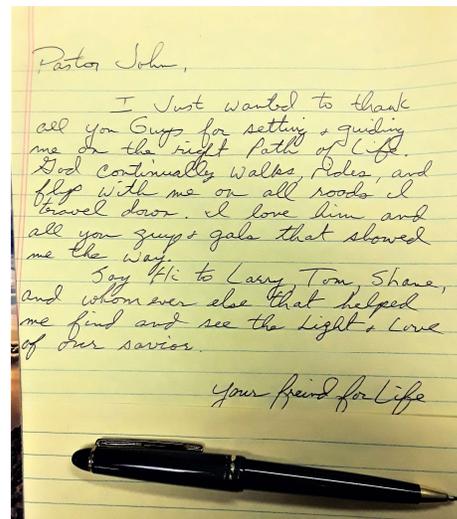
The Southcentral Foundation Board of Directors has selected April Kyle as the new president and CEO. She has been serving as interim president and CEO since August 2020. SCF has been a generous partner to the Mission and a good teacher. They have helped us purchase a new boiler, sponsored our staff to participate in special seminars that have allowed us to better engage and support our clients and also made room for our program folks in their drum workshops. We wish April and Southcentral Foundation a blessed partnership. This organization is vital and generous to our community. May the way forward be inspired.



Much to be Grateful For



*With thankful hearts we remember the ones we love,
Parted but present.*



I received a check from a wonderful man who needed our help at one time. Now, because of God's grace and the goodness of our partners, the shoe is on the other foot, it is he who helps us. We are proud of him and we are thrilled by his testimony and friendship. We are privileged here to do the things Jesus loves. (Name withheld for privacy reasons.)

FULLY FED

November 30th is Giving Tuesday. This year would you consider making a donation in support of our Rescue Mission Kitchen Project? For many of our shelter clients the path to the altar runs through the kitchen. Grace before meals is often a beautiful first step towards the grace available in Christ.

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission makes every effort to honor the wishes of our donors who have directed contributions to a specific area. We do, however, reserve the right to redirect the monies received over and above a specific need, into whatever areas they may best be useful.



An Opportunity to Give



Thanksgiving is coming and with it our annual Thanksgiving dinner for those who are hungry and lonely. It will be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving in the afternoon. We will need turkeys (lots), potatoes, corn, canned sweet potatoes, green beans, pumpkin pies and cool whip. This is always a big day for us and a happy time for our neighbors. Your help means the world to us.

Prayer Need



We have been visiting the temporary shelter at Sullivan Arena. We took applications for the openings available in our LifeSkills program to share with those staying there. Hoping to shine a light on a new path for men with an interest in sobriety and employment. Please pray over those seeds.

A Store With a Mission

The Mission received a contribution this month from Fashion Pact on Ingra and we made a visit today to thank owner, Brittani Clancey, in person. This is a well stocked, beautiful resale shop. You can feel that it is special when you enter. Brittani even gave us a down coat for our shelter clothing room. One of our dear neighbors will have a warmer winter wearing that coat. Thank you Brittani and Fashion Pact! Check out the Fashion Pact Facebook page.



Thankful for Our Neighbors



I had a great visit with Dr. Russell Biggs this morning when he came to donate to the Mission from the Reclaim Midtown group. A gift like this, at this time of year, is an answer to prayer. The Doctor was definitely in the house today and today he was dispensing miracles! Thank you Reclaim Midtown. The Mission will use your kindness to help our neighbors reclaim lost opportunities.

Cooking Up Some Love



We made a visit to Altura Bistro in Midtown yesterday to let them know how sincerely we appreciated their recent gift to the Rescue Mission.

Owner, Nathan Bentley, had created a special burger to honor and support his father, David, who was going through treatment for cancer. The Mission was David's choice as the non-profit to receive a portion of the sales.

Their contribution, well in excess of \$4,000, was used to refresh our women's dormitory with new quilts and bedding as well as providing meals for many of the hungry in our community.

Their gift touched our hearts. David's consideration of others at such a difficult time in his own life is inspirational. He can be assured of our continued prayers for his health.

Thank you Altura team and the Bentleys for your creative menus and your creative giving. May the Lord prosper you and return the kindness you have shown.

Check out their Facebook page and consider trying the cuisine for yourself.



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Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Schedule ~ November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 CORNERSTONE CHURCH GLENN HERMAN	2 CLEARWATER CHURCH ROBERT BELL	3 REHAB HOUSE TONI CASTILLO	4 VINYARD CHURCH JD FULLER	5 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RUSSELL KELL	6 FREEDOM HOUSE
7 AGRM PASTOR JOHN BAND	8 CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY ARLETA LEFLER BAND	9 CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH PASTOR RATCLIFF	10 TBA	11 CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH DON RABB DAVE HALEY	12 FIRST ASSEMBLY CLARENCE GOWARD	13 HOPE CHURCH JAMES MARTIN
14 HIGHLAND MOUNTAIN RONNA LOPIZICH BAND	15 SHERBAHN EVANGELISTIC TEAM	16 ANCHORAGE NATIVE ASSEMBLY	17 GRACE BAPTIST TEMPLE ROGER HOLMBERG	18 SHERBAHN EVANGELISTIC TEAM	19 SHERBAHN EVANGELISTIC TEAM	20 LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
21 VICTORY CHRISTIAN CENTER	22 HILLSIDE SDA	23 CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY VINCE TIMOG	24 HOUSE OF DELIVERANCE ISAIAH GRABLE	25 FIRST COVENANT	26 DOMINION MINISTRIES	27 MOVIE NIGHT AGRM TBA
28 AGRM BAND	29 TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN GENE ERVINEERVINE	30 TBA				

When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself.



Chief Tecumseh
Leader of the Shawnee