

# MVCC Voices

The Monthly Newsletter Of  
Moraine Valley Community Church

For the Month of February 2015

## From The Pastor's Desk

By Pastor Derek Mason



February celebrates Valentine's Day – a day of *love*. *Love* is the most important characteristic to be present in the Christian individual and church body. Jesus commanded His disciples to, “*love one another: just as I have loved you and by this all people will know that you are my disciples*” (John 13:34-35). It is not easy for humans to truly *love* one another because we are corrupted by sin. Therefore, we will have to learn how to give grace as God gave it to us. This is not easy for us to do. Grace is mercy given but not deserved. We however, as Christ's followers, get the honor of sharing in the divine character of God. Apart from the Holy Spirit this will not be genuinely possible. We are given many opportunities in our lives: to be a person of grace and not vengeance, to reflect the LORD's character and not humanity's, and to be light in the darkness and not a contributor to this fallen world. Most interestingly, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 13 that Christ's followers can have mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit yet if we do not have *love* we are nothing. *Love* is a very strong attribute of the LORD but there is no *love* in Satan. Christ exemplified for us a self-sacrificing *love* for others that they might have life. His focus and faith was on God the Father and not Himself. One who has a gift (or many gifts) from the Spirit of God yet does not show *love* to all

(especially brothers and sisters) is not completely submissive to nor filled with the Spirit (1 John 4:7-9). They have abused their gift(s) and they will eventually be taken away. We are not to be selective with our *love*. Only the one who truly knows Jesus Christ can truly *love* as God commands us.

If all of creation is of God and all people are created in His image and likeness. Then how could those who have submitted to Jesus Christ as their Savior and God not *love* and have compassion for all people – even if they are corrupted by sin? Hate is an element of Satan not of God. Judgment is what God must bring upon all sin/evil but He established a way for humanity to stay in His mercy and *love*. He commands all His obedient children (through Christ) to proclaim this way in word and deed (life/action) to all people in *love*. That is why God gives us our gifts – so we can be witnesses of His *love* for the world! May we be a church which overflows with the *love* of God to our friends, families, strangers and even our enemies. That those who feel neglected by this world (or even by God) would see the truth - that their Creator has not abandoned them. That He fights for us and with us so that we might truly know Him and the overwhelming *love* which He has for us all! May all that we do be done in true *love* and glorify our God, Creator and Savior as His obedient children. Amen.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Derek Mason



*Please join together in prayer as we  
mourn the passing of two members of our  
Moraine Valley Community Church  
family*

*Pam Van Liew*

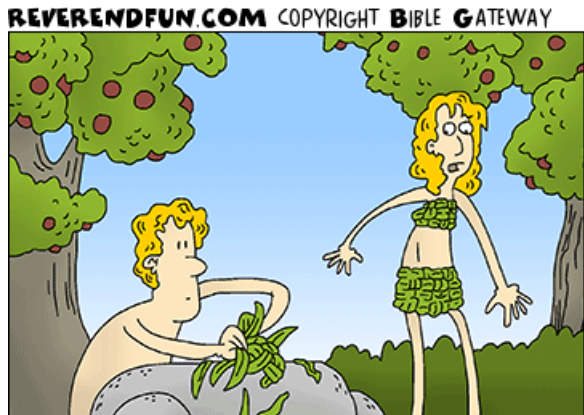
*And also*

*John Sacher*

*Remember also their friends and families  
in your prayers as they mourn the loss of  
their loved one.*

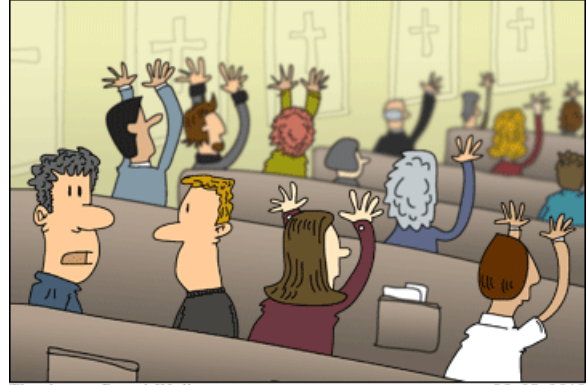
## Birthdays Etc.

Pete Delgado	Feb. 4 (homebound)
Vivian Wagner	Feb. 9
Landon Roth	Feb. 23
Patty Gambill	Feb. 25



(See Genesis 3) 09-15-2014  
OH NO ... DO THESE LEAVES MAKE MY  
BUTT LOOK BIG?

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Thanks to David Walker 03-25-2013  
I THINK THE HAND RAISING IS KINDA  
LIKE RABBIT EARS ... BETTER RECEPTION

## We've Grown Again

On Sunday January 4th, Pastor Derek offered the Right Hand of Friendship to Diane Brown near the end of that Sunday's Worship service.



On Sunday January 18th, near the end of the service, husband and wife Scott and Jackie Gahle indicated their desire to become members of our church.

From all of us at Moraine Valley Community Church, "Welcome Aboard"

## From the Elder's Table

**John Sacher**

**August 4, 1953 – May 23, 2013**

If you are new to our church, you are probably wondering, who is John Sacher? Actually most of us at The Elders' Table asked the same question. John Sacher was a member of our church in the 1990's. We had to ask around to get that much information. Again you are wondering, why do we want to know who John Sacher was? We want to know more about this man because our church played a part in his faith journey and Moraine Valley Community Church meant so much to him that he bequeathed us almost \$40,000.00 when he died in 2013. We received his generous gift this past month along with a letter from his attorney.

John Sacher was a single man who traveled the world. He was a quiet man, who loved photography and who made his living by being a civil engineer. He built bridges. His only family was his church family. His attorney told us he belonged to several churches in his life time, and he remembered them all. One member of our church remembered him as a man of great faith.

Sometimes it is hard to describe a man's life in that dash between the day he was born and the day he died. Sadly we were unable to obtain much more information about John. To be remembered as a man of great faith may be enough.

Our church is on its own faith journey, and once again, we are reminded that surely God has a plan for us. Thank you, John, for helping us to further God's kingdom and for remembering us. We will remember you.

## Remember in Prayer

- Elsie's Food Pantry: provisions/wisdom/protection
- MVCC: wisdom/guidance/protection
- Hearts to serve – to build our church (formation of ministries)
- Discipleship/transformation/leadership development
- Tony Zappa – knees
- Patsy Rybka – foot recovery/health
- Tom Heinrich – healing/health
- Emmitt Hayes' daughter (Jackie) – cancer healing/hope
- Pete Delgado – dementia (Sarah – strength)
- Vi Wagner – hip/eyes/strength
- Arlena Reyes – Transformation/strength/protection
- Beth Heinrich – strength/wisdom/guidance
- Mark DeBauche: cancer healing / strength /endurance
- Becky Lewellen: strength/peace/healing/wisdom
- Kevin Pepe – building inspector career change blessings
- Edith Martinez – Sister for healing, mom for provisions, father for healing and wisdom and guidance regarding her nephew
- Rob Thompson – stomach muscle tear
- Dan Tabert – toe healing
- Jackie Gehle – healing, peace, provisions
- Donna Healy – pinched nerve neck recovery
- Darryl – protection, provisions, guidance, faith, healing
- Latoya/Bill Clemente/Chris DeBauche – employment

# Food For Thought

## Don't Hope, Decide!!

While waiting to pick up a friend at the airport in Portland, Oregon, I had one of those life-changing experiences that you hear other people talk about — the kind that sneaks up on you unexpectedly. This one occurred a mere two feet away from me.

Straining to locate my friend among the passengers deplaning through the jet way, I noticed a man coming toward me carrying two light bags. He stopped right next to me to greet his family.

First he motioned to his youngest son (maybe six years old) as he laid down his bags. They gave each other a long, loving hug. As they separated enough to look in each other's face, I heard the father say, "It's so good to see you, son. I missed you so much!" His son smiled somewhat shyly, averted his eyes and replied softly, "Me, too, Dad!"

Then the man stood up, gazed in the eyes of his oldest son (maybe nine or ten) and while cupping his son's face in his hands said, "You're already quite the young man. I love you very much, Zach!" They too hugged a most loving, tender hug.

While this was happening, a baby girl (perhaps one or one-and-a-half) was squirming excitedly in her mother's arms, never once taking her little eyes off the wonderful sight of her returning father. The man said, "Hi, baby girl!" as he gently took the child from her mother. He quickly kissed her face all over and then held her close to his chest while rocking her from side to side. The little girl instantly relaxed and simply laid her head on his shoulder, motionless in pure contentment.

After several moments, he handed his daughter to his oldest son and declared, "I've saved the best for last!" and proceeded to give his wife the longest, most passionate kiss I ever remember

seeing. He gazed into her eyes for several seconds and then silently mouthed. "I love you so much!" They stared at each other's eyes, beaming big smiles at one another, while holding both hands.

For an instant they reminded me of newlyweds, but I knew by the age of their kids that they couldn't possibly be. I puzzled about it for a moment then realized how totally engrossed I was in the wonderful display of unconditional love not more than an arm's length away from me. I suddenly felt uncomfortable, as if I was invading something sacred, but was amazed to hear my own voice nervously ask, "Wow! How long have you two been married?"

"Been together fourteen years total, married twelve of those." he replied, without breaking his gaze from his lovely wife's face. "Well then, how long have you been away?" I asked. The man finally turned and looked at me, still beaming his joyous smile. "Two whole days!"

Two days? I was stunned. By the intensity of the greeting, I had assumed he'd been gone for at least several weeks – if not months. I know my expression betrayed me.

I said almost offhandedly, hoping to end my intrusion with some semblance of grace (and to get back to searching for my friend), "I hope my marriage is still that passionate after twelve years!"

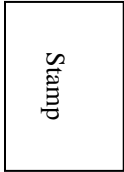
The man suddenly stopped smiling.

He looked me straight in the eye, and with forcefulness that burned right into my soul, he told me something that left me a different person. He told me, "Don't hope, friend... decide!" Then he flashed me his wonderful smile again, shook my hand and said, "God bless!"

- By Michael D. Hargrove and Bottom Line  
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