

*ALTAVISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



THE LINK

February 1, 2020

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE
ALWAYS OPEN



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We humans have many ways of hurting people. Marjorie Thompson notes in her book *Forgiveness*, "Most of our ways of wounding each other are emotional. We withhold acceptance, affirmation, personal warmth; we exclude and reject; we betray trust and gossip behind backs; we make snide comments, dish out criticism, and harp on weaknesses; we even shame publicly and play games of emotional blackmail, threatening to expose another's secrets in order to gain what we want." Sin makes us focus on our individual desires, over and against the concerns of someone else. If we feel hurt or threatened, our sinful nature says to strike back and to hurt them in return. The Christian is called to the way of the cross. The way of the cross reveals to us our necessity to ask God's forgiveness and incites within us the desire to seek forgiveness from others. Recall the thieves crucified with Jesus. The one who calls out his co-detainee recognizes who Jesus is. He recognizes that Jesus was undeserving of this death, that he was truly innocent. He recognizes that Jesus is the King of kings and the Son of God. And so he seeks forgiveness by asking the Messiah to remember him when He enters His kingdom.

The standard way of seeking forgiveness is through the apology. The actual work of the apology is all about humility and returning to someone that which was lost. Since the apology is such an integral part of reconciliation, I want to outline some advice from Thompson. One element, of the apology is to acknowledge a particular offense and be willing to take responsibility for it. We have to admit "that a relationship was damaged in some way." This first step falls short when we fail to fully acknowledge injury or refuse to take responsibility. Key phrases in these pseudo-apologies are, "If some of what I said was disrespectful..." Or, "Mistakes were made." Or, "I'm sorry if you felt hurt by what I did." By saying these, we are averting any responsibility. Another element is to express a true sense of regret or shame. Our offense against someone has to trouble us. If we do not feel moved by our disgrace, then the apology holds no water. We can't be more sorry about *getting caught* than for *doing the deed*. The final element is the expression of our humility, which is to be defenseless before the other. "This means offering no defense of oneself, standing exposed and vulnerable to the response of the offended person." If we try to justify our actions or blame something else, we are erasing the effectiveness of the apology.

Repentance is about reversing the power roles. There's no guarantee that the other person will even accept our apology, but that is the risk we have to take. Moreover, "If the offended person offers forgiveness, we should receive it humbly and gratefully, with an inward commitment not to fall into such injurious behavior again." This is important for the apology isn't the end-all-be-all. True repentance means we cannot fall back into the old patterns of sin. Repentance is a changing of our mindset from an old way into a new way: *metanoia*. Therefore, when we receive forgiveness from God, we ought not to revert to our old sinful manners; and when we receive forgiveness from another person, we ought not to disrespect that person again.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ed Soto

Altavista Presbyterian Church
Session Highlights
January 19, 2020 meeting

- Decided to match the money collected from the Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon from ACT for Mission funds.
- The Youth Group will host a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday evening, February 25, 2020. 50% of the proceeds will go to the Youth Group & 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Pastor Elvis in Puerto Rico. Decided to match the 50% of the proceeds being donated to the Puerto Rico mission from ACT for Mission funds
- Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by the ACS varsity & JV girls' basketball teams on January 22, 2020 for a pre-game meal & waived all fees.
- Approved the Campbell County Literacy Program & SPARK each to submit requests for Presbytery Block Grants.
- Reviewed the December, 2019 Treasurer's Report.
- Approved minutes of the December 15, 2019 Stated meeting as presented.
- Elected Kevin deBernard as commissioner & John Erb as alternate commissioner to the February 13, 2020 Presbytery meeting to be held at Forest PC.
- Approved APC's 2019 Annual Statistical Report to Presbytery as presented.
- Approved Pastor Ed's use of the Fellowship Hall on May 24, 2020 for Teddy's birthday party & waived all fees.
- Moved the celebration of Communion from May 3, 2020 to May 10, 2020.
- Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	December-2019	YTD
Pledges	9,900.50	103.974
Non-Pledges	3,783	2,574.67
Plate Offering	259	1,688.50
Total Expenses	13,092.91	145,746.72

Sermons This Month

Feb. 2nd • Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Micah 6:1-8

Mark 6:1-6

“Prophets at Home” Expository Series on Mark

Feb. 9th • Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 58:1-12

Mark 6:7-13

“Humble Courage” Expository Series on Mark

Feb. 16th • Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Mark 6:14-29

“Death of John the Baptist” Expository Series on Mark

Feb. 23rd • Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher

Feb. 26th • Ash Wednesday

Daniel 9:3-19

“Prayer of Confession”

Imposition of Ashes



Prayers Needed

Please lift Kathi Bogert and her family up in prayer. Kathi has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and for the present she is too weak to have surgery. Cards may be sent to: 5412 NW 113th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Timothy Coleman continues his recovery at the Lynchburg Health & Rehabilitation Center in Lynchburg. Please continue lifting Tim, Ron and Joyce in prayer. Cards may be sent to:

Lynchburg Health & Rehabilitation Center
5615 Seminole Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24502

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Bible Study — February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th

Bible Study meets every **Tuesday** morning in the Adult Sunday School room **at 10:00 AM**. All are welcome to join as Pastor Ed leads us through various studies and discussions of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Pastor Ed takes us back to the Bible with a survey of Israel's Monarchy.

- 2/4 Solomon as King (I Ki. 3; II Ch. 1-3; I Ki. 11)
- 2/11 Northern Kingdom I (I Kings 12-16)
- 2/18 Northern Kingdom II (I Ki. 16, 18, 21; II Ch. 21; II Ki. 9-10, 13)
- 2/25 Northern Kingdom III (II Kings 13-15)

Prayer Fellowship — February 12th and 26th

Prayer Fellowship meets on the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays** in the Pastor's Study **at 9:30 AM**. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

Youth Group — February 9th and 23rd

Youth Group meets on the **Second and Fourth Sundays** in the Youth Room **at 5:00 PM**. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.

This Spring, Pastor Ed will combine Youth Group lessons with Confirmation group sessions.

February

Birthdays		Anniversaries
2	Al Smith	
5	Alex Eubank	
15	Ivey Janiak	
18	Charlotte Mabry	
22	Dianne Emmett	
27	Kiernan deBernard	
29	Jack Ritzer	



Month of February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10 AM Worship Communion/ Children's Church After Worship Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon	3 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	4 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – China Wok	5 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	6	7	8
9 Worship/Children's Church 5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	10 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH 6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg.	11 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room	12 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 10:30 AM Women's F. Mtg. 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 6 PM Valentine's Dinner at Lavalette House	13 9:30 AM Presbytery Meeting at Forest Presbyterian Church	14	15
16 Worship/Children's Church	17 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	18 8:30 AM Bingo- Dialysis Center 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room 12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Main Street Café 1 PM Bingo- Dialysis Center Pastor Ed on Vacation Feb. 18-21	19 8:30 AM Bingo- Dialysis Center 9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Daily Bread 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch 1 PM Bingo- Dialysis Center 1 PM DAWN Board Mtg. 5:30 PM Property Mtg.	20	21	22
23 10 AM Worship Children's Church Session Meeting after Worship 5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	24 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH March Link Deadline	25 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room 5:30 PM Youth Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fundraiser	26 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship 12:10 PM Lenten Service 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29



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