

PRAYERS

Butch and Chris – Chris and Butch continue to recuperate.

Chanice – She had a port installed to aid in her dialysis.

Carmen – Traveling to Colorado

Congregation News

New Address for the Opheims

5513 West 39th Street

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Congratulations to Carson Lohr for winning state in wrestling last week.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Some people remember a lie for ten years (or more), but forget the truth in ten minutes (or less)!

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

	4/1/18	4/8/18
Bible Class	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Announcements	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Song Leader	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Opening Prayer	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Lord's Supper	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Scripture Reading	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford
Sermon	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford

Bible Classes

	Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening
Adult	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Wednesday Evening

	Building Cleanup
	Crawford

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Bulletin Submissions

If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by Friday night to: tlbj@sbcglobal.net

Aberdeen church of Christ

April 1, 2018

Do You Complain or Greet?

Luke 15:1-3 are the opening lines of what is usually considered one of the greatest chapters of all the Bible. One parable, three stories to convey the message of value and joy when lost souls have been found!

Have you lost anything of value? When Tracie and I had been married for about a decade, one of the prongs broke on her engagement ring. It was a heart shape diamond that was very special to both of us. We were so disappointed. We retraced steps, felt of carpet with our fingers, sifted through grass near our sidewalks, inspected the car and the house, but finally had to accept that it was lost. When we considered another ring, she didn't want a heart shape this time. She felt that the original couldn't be replaced.

Somewhat like a soul isn't it? Each soul in the sight of God has value. We can't fall into the mindset of seeing guests on Sunday and thinking, what if we reach out to 50% of them? We are friendly to most, is that wise? Don't the others have souls too? Why would some not reach out to all?

In this great chapter of Luke 15 we see some drawing near to the Lord who are lost. We see Pharisees and scribes (they would have deemed themselves righteous and saved) complaining because the lost are coming near! You would hope they would have greeted instead of complained.

Luke 14 is the beginning of the last Sabbath Day that we have recorded before the Sabbath that begins His final week in which He will be crucified.

Throughout the 14th chapter of John, Jesus has placed the value of souls above their animals (1-6). This may sound easy, but most would look for their lost dog much more urgently than they would a lost soul. Then Jesus teaches on humility. With that backdrop He teaches us to exalt and serve all souls, even the poor and maimed (7-14). No excuses (15-24). Most excuses still fall under property, possessions, and relationships just as he taught nearly 2,000 years ago.

Then in Jesus' authoritative way, He declared individuals cannot be disciples if they don't love the Lord more than all others including themselves (25-33).

After these straightforward teachings Jesus offered to teach more if anyone wanted to stay longer (35). That is why chapter 15 begins with the word "Then." The sinners wanted to know more about discipleship with no excuses. They wanted to follow a leader who demands that all be treated well and served. But the Pharisees complained. (Insert tears). Doesn't this break your

heart? Let us never complain to give up our seat, parking spot, or class for a guest to "draw near to Him." Let it be our prayer and intention to greet and love the lost the way Jesus does!

Luke 15:1-2 NKJV Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. (2) And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them."

Disillusioned

When I was first married, my wife and I visited a tropical fish shop. As I went from tank to tank looking at the different kinds of fish, there happened to be an octagon tank in the middle of the store. It was a salt water tank, and in it were seahorse.

Up to that moment in my life, I thought seahorse were a thing of legend, mythical creatures, like the winged horse, Pegasus, or the unicorn. It is hard to put into words the confusion and amazement I felt. At first, I supposed they were plastic decorations. Then I looked for movement of any kind. The fins on the side of their bodies seemed to be moving, but then again, I was so confused, I thought I was seeing things.

I asked my wife to look. I asked her if the fins looked like they were moving. She said, "yes." I was so confused and embarrassed of exposing my ignorance, and afraid to ask her if seahorse were real. Apparently, the existence of seahorse posed no problem for her, but then again, I thought she might be confused about their existence as well. The real question I wanted to ask was, "Are seahorse real or mythical creatures?" So, I asked the owner if the seahorse in the tank were real. I had to know. He confirmed they were real, alive. At first, I thought he was having fun with me, but eventually I came to see the little creatures in the tank as alive—real. I have been fascinated by the fact that seahorse are real creatures ever since, and have not yet lost my sense of wonder when I see them in a fish shop.

A number of years ago I happened to be teaching the high school class during VBS. I made mention of a number of people like Daniel Boone, Wyatt Earp, Davey Crockett, and such like. One of the young ladies in our class raised her hand a bewildering look on her face. She asked, "Are those people real? Are they real people who lived in the past?" I informed her that they were real historical people. She thought they were just fictional literary characters, the figment of the imagination of writers in Hollywood.

This young lady and I were disillusioned. Being disillusioned is not necessarily a bad thing. Break the word down. Prior to being disillusioned, we lived under some illusion. An illusion is a false impression of reality—the sort of things

magicians do. I would say that being disillusioned is a good thing in both of our cases. In the fish shop, my false impression of seahorse was corrected. At VBS, the young lady learned that some heroic personalities were real people.

As far back as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the sometimes blurred lines of reality. I have been making a list of movies and real life experiences that illustrate such. Perhaps some of you have seen the movie "Fairy Tale: A True Story." In 1917, two children took some photographs which some took to be the first scientific evidence of the existence of fairies. There is a lot to this story that goes beyond the movie, but the movie captures this limbo like experience—that feeling produced when we find ourselves between reality and fantasy.

Being disillusioned is not pleasant, initially. It is disorienting, and always an occasion for reassessment. But it is often beneficial—unless it leads to cynicism.

The apostle Paul was disillusioned on the road to Damascus. He was on his way to arrest and imprison Christians—those pesky disciples of Jesus, —but he met the risen Lord face to face, disillusioning his former impression of Christians and the Christ. Initially, it was a painful experience, evidenced by Paul's fasting and temporary blindness. But who would ever argue that it was a bad thing?

There is a bad kind of disillusionment. Take Eve in Genesis 3 for example. Eve knew the Lord. She knew His will well enough to repeat it to the serpent. The serpent beguiled Eve and she became disillusioned with God. The Devil convinced her that the Lord must be withholding some good thing from her. The serpent convinced her that she could be like God determining for herself what is good and evil. This is a bad kind of disillusionment.

Being disillusioned of a false belief can be enlightening. Being disillusioned of the truth and reality can lead to cynicism, and that is a sickness. (See Andrew Byers, *Faith Without Illusions*.)

Have you ever been disillusioned?

Welcome to our Assembly . . .

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of this congregation, we are happy to have you with us this morning. For those visiting, please make yourself comfortable. A good deal of information about this church and its activities can be found on this sheet. We encourage and invite anyone interested to participate in the activities offered throughout the week. If you have any questions about the facilities, our worship service, or want more information about the church, feel free to ask anyone present. Someone will be glad to help you!