

First United Methodist Church
of Shamrock, Texas
January 31, 2014

Rev. Jarrod Neal, Pastor

Kathy Marak, Secretary



GROUNDHOG DAY

According to folklore, if it is cloudy when a groundhog emerges from its burrow on the second day of February, then spring will come early; if it is sunny, the groundhog will supposedly see its shadow and retreat back into its burrow, and the winter weather will continue for six more weeks. German tradition holds that if the sun comes out on **Candlemas**, the precursor to Groundhog Day, the hedgehog (or badger) will see its shadow and six more weeks of winter will follow. When German settlers came to Pennsylvania they continued this tradition, using groundhogs instead of hedgehogs to predict the weather.

The first official Groundhog Day was celebrated on February 2, 1886 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, with a proclamation in *The Punxsutawney Spirit* by the newspaper's editor: "Today is groundhog day and up to the time of going to press the beast has not seen its shadow." The legendary first Groundhog Day trip to Gobbler's Knob was made the following year by a group of spirited groundhog hunters who dubbed themselves "The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club." They proclaimed that Phil, the Punxsutawney Groundhog, was the one and only official weather prognosticating groundhog.

Punxsutawney was first settled by the Delaware Indians in 1723 and its name comes from the Indian name for the location "ponksad-uteney" which means the "town of the sandflies." Punxsutawney is located in Western Pennsylvania, about 80 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

(taken from www.wikipedia.com & pittsburg.about.com)

February Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

Johnny Christner	1
Elizabeth Moore	4
Grace Middlemis	5
Denton Brown	16



Jarrod's Jottings

Luke 14:33: "So therefore, every one of you who does not say 'goodbye' to all he has is not able to be my disciple."

Can Jesus have really *meant* this? Our first impulse might be to take these words as an example of *extreme discipleship*, like a Christian version of ESPN's X-games, where daredevil virtuosos perform astoundingly difficult and dangerous feats on skis, skateboards, snowboards, mountain bikes—you name it. It seems reasonable to assume that X-treme discipleship would also require raw talent, a fearless nature, and years of practice.

After all, is it even *possible* to renounce, forsake, say "goodbye" to absolutely everything we have? I suppose, in all the years I've lived so far, there have been a handful of high-stress moments when, somewhere at the back of my mind, I toyed with the idea of dropping everything, walking away from the mess and stress of my whole life, and boldly setting out toward the sunrise of a brand new future. But in those fleeting fantasies, I somehow managed to hold onto my car and credit cards (or at least *some* way to access the cash to finance this bold journey into a freer and better tomorrow).

It's at those moments—when we feel out of control, trapped in a life that rules over us like an unfeeling tyrant—that the meaning of Jesus' words becomes clear. Because that's what it all comes down to, isn't it? Control. That's how we define what "belongs" to us. When we say that something is *ours*, we mean that we can do whatever we want to with it.

In C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*, a senior devil writes to a junior tempter on how to exploit our need for "possessions":

The sense of ownership in general is always to be encouraged . . . We produce this sense of ownership not only by pride but by confusion. We teach them not to notice the different senses of the possessive pronoun: the finely graded differences that run from "my boots" through "my dog," "my servant," "my wife," "my father," "my master" and "my country," to "my God." They can be taught to reduce all these senses to that of "my boots," the "my" of ownership. Even in the nursery a child can be taught to mean by "my Teddy-bear" not the old imagined recipient of affection to whom it stands in a special relation (for that is what the Enemy will teach them to mean if we are not careful) but "the bear I can pull to pieces if I like."▣

The irony, which even these fictional devils recognized, is that no one can ever say "mine" in its truly possessive sense except God. And every one who does not acknowledge and embrace this truth, freely and fully renouncing all "possessions", cannot honestly call Jesus (as poor, doubting Thomas finally did) "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Jarrod

Church Council meets at 4:00 pm Feb. 9, 2014

Tithes & Offerings

2014 Budget: \$ 143,250.00
Needed Weekly: \$ 2,754.80

Offering-week of Jan. 5: \$ 1,512.00
Offering-week of Jan. 12: \$ 2,867.00
Offering-week of Jan. 19: \$ 2,055.00
Offering-week of Jan. 26: \$ 1,900.00

Total Received 2014: \$ 8.334.00

Attendance for January 5

Sunday School: 11
Morning Worship: 22

Attendance for January 12

Sunday School: 18
Morning Worship: 30

Attendance for January 19

Sunday School: 15
Morning Worship: 24

Attendance for January 26

Sunday School: 16
Morning Worship: 31

Help Wanted: Nursery worker on Sunday mornings
If you or someone you know might be interested in this
position, please contact the church office.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sympathy

the family of Joanne Corley

Ongoing Concerns

Linda Allison
Don & Leoda Blacketter
Ronald Carter
Brenda Cornett
Martha Cox
Kitty Dorn
Shirley Galmor
Gary Gandy
Joyce Gragg
Richard Kincannon
Noel McLemore
Holly Middlemis
Chancey Rae Miller
Sandra Morgan

Darrell Nelson
Betty Reneau
Diane Gragg Reynolds
MaryGail Wilson

Assisted Living/ Nursing Home

Irene Barth
John Ray Corley
James Reneau

Homebound

Dr. William Doebele
Christine Marett

Military Personnel

SGT J. Egnor
SPC J. Scheideger
Veterans
All military & their families

Leadership

National, state, county
& local leaders
School leaders, teachers
& students
Firefighters & police
Missionaries:
the Brabons,
the Urys,
Myrna McGlothlin,
Jerri & Bill Savuto

Thank God for His Blessings!

Lee Bowen-better
Don Bradley-recovering well
Hazel Janssen-better
Sue Marshall-better

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Sunday, February 2 - Holy Communion

9:00 am-Coffee-Fellowship Hall

9:30 am-Sunday School

10:30 am-Morning Worship

5:20 pm-**Super Bowl** in New Jersey



Wednesday, February 5

6:30 pm-Bible fellowship



Sunday, February 9

4:00 pm-Church Council

Tuesday, February 11

9:30 am-UMW Group



Friday, February 14 - Valentine's Day *Be Mine*

Sunday, February 17

4:00 pm-UMW Unit - Pledge Service - Group #2



Thursday, February 20

6:30 am-UMM at Mitchell's



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P. O. Box 48
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Return Service Requested