

Newsletter Editor:
Pat Davis
Email:
zipzapitsme@gmail.com

Elgin Congregational Holiness Church

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Luke
Asst Pastor: Rev. Judith Luke

1331 Smyrna Road
Elgin, SC 29045
(803) 438-5351

Visit us on the web:
<http://elginchc.weebly.com/>

December 1, 2013

Special Points of Interest

- Men's Fellowship:
Free Breakfast is the First Saturday of every month at 9am. Everyone Welcome! See Rev. Richard Abram for more information.
- Women's Meeting:
Forth Thursday of every month. Speak to Sis. Judy Hensley to help or if you have any ideas
- EPIC Youth— see calendar for upcoming Youth Events. See Tangy Sims for details.
- Remember our youth: They need our help. Contact Tangy Sims to see how you can help.
- Want to write or help with the newsletter? Contact Pat Davis Email: zipzapitsme@gmail.com

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Volume 2, Issue 21

"High Tea With The DOVES"

November 16, 2013

Sharing a cup of tea with the ladies had a deeper purpose —



There are many different blends of tea, some strong, some weak, and some taste odd.

Christians are the same — some are strong, some are weak, and some act odd.



Our aim at our High Tea was to develop some good tasting spiritual Teas. We tasted a few...

Hospitali-Tea (hospitality - sharing) 1 Peter 4:9 (NLT) Cheerfully share your home with those who need meals and a place to stay.

Uni-Tea (unity or harmony) Psalms 133: 1 (NLT) How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers (or Sisters) live in harmony.

Laughabili-Tea (laughter) Proverbs 17:22 (NLT) A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken Spirit saps a person's strength.

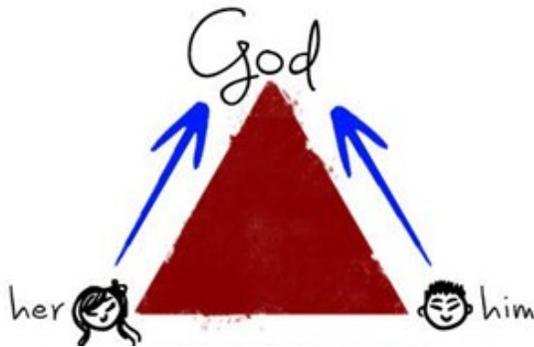


Our ladies tasted a lot of these Teas, we had harmony, laughter, and sharing. There will be more in the future.

All In God's Timing and All for His Glory

by Angela Barnette

At the newsletter editor's request, I'm sharing on our recent wedding anniversary celebration. Going back a few years ago in 2007, I began my faithful walk with the Lord to be spirit filled then water baptized in 2008. Lane was water baptized earlier this year and it was a short time thereafter we discussed renewing our marriage vows.



A simple triangle is a good start for sharing our story. As Lane and I have traveled the road of life yielding to the Holy Spirit we individually entered into a closer relationship with God. As our own individual relationship with God become stronger, our marriage showed signs of God working and strengthening. We recognized this year that we were like broken pieces of pottery and we would allow Jesus to develop a masterpiece - by placing us in his hands. October 5th was a day of celebrating our love in unity like in 1 Corinthians 13.

With Rev. Warren Morris officiating, the service was an expression of our story through songs, personal words spoken, exchanging of vows and different Biblical symbolism.

A time was dedicated to foot washing as Jesus did in John 13 and to us the foot washing was washing away things of the past and a humble commitment of serving each other in all the days ahead. We then took part in a salt covenant of which I never



heard of until this year. My first glimpse of the salt covenant was in 2 Chronicles 13:5. I researched to learn this is a visible sign of an agreement or contract. In Biblical times, two people would enter a covenant of salt by putting their individual salt into one container then shaking. The only way for the contract to be broken was for each person to be able to identify and extract their own individual grains of salt. Lane and I made a salt covenant between each other and with God.



The salt covenant was followed by braiding three cords together. As in Ecclesiastes, three cords are not easily broken and for us it symbolizes the joining of God, Lane and I into one. Candles were lit and communion was taken.

The wedding renewal ceremony was a time set aside for God and to recognize it as such we concluded the service with corporate worship.

All that we are and all that we have was laid down and offered to be used for the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



The gift of "YOU"

My husband is the worst person in the world to buy for. He is the kind of man who exists at such a deep level of contentment that mere man-made trinkets often fail to move him. While he has a healthy respect for material things, they will never have the ability to bring him any appreciable amount of true joy. For the past twenty years of our marriage, I have expended great effort trying to get a reaction out of him through my gift giving. Though grateful for the thought and effort, his response is often anything but reinforcing.

A few years ago, he mentioned to me that he regretted selling a Spider-Man comic to his buddy down the street when he was twelve years old. My eyes, which normally glaze over at the mention of comic books, widened. I paid rapt attention thinking surely this must be the gift idea that would finally get a rise out of my stoic spouse. I researched and found the comic book for sale at a local comic book store. I weakened a bit in the knees as I purchased the originally 20-cent comic book for way more money than I thought it was worth. But, if it made my husband happy, it would be worth it.

As Christmas approached, I excitedly anticipated his reaction to my "perfect" gift. I wrapped the comic in a box within a box so that there would be no premature guessing. I wanted him to be surprised. Christmas morning finally arrived and I was on the edge of my seat as I watched him open his gift. He pulled the comic out of the box within a box and nodded. "Oh, Spider-Man number 121, the death of Gwen Stacy... I don't have this one," he says. *Of course you don't have this one, I thought! You've been pining away for this comic for four decades and I have brought it home to you!* I waited patiently for his rapturous reaction. After examining the comic, "Great, thanks" he says as he puts down the comic and reaches for another gift. *What! Is that it? Is that all I get? All of the work, the effort, all of the planning, all the dreaming of an enthusiastic response!* I was crestfallen; disappointed was an understatement!

After expressing my displeasure at his emotionless response, my husband assured me that he very much appreciated the gift. He's just not very expressive "in that way." On that day, I concluded that "Great, thanks" was the best I could hope for or expect. I relinquished any and all expectations regarding my husband's ability to be expressive in the gift-receiving department.

Several years later, during a random conversation, my husband revealed that one of the best gifts he had ever received was a set of Lone Ranger radio broadcast recordings that my mother had given him a few years prior.

I was shocked! *What! My mother's random gift was one of the best gifts he had ever received! What about the costly comic?* A heated discussion ensued. I felt hurt and disappointed in him and in myself. Why could I not make my husband happy? We had a great marriage. He seemed to me a happily married man. Why could I not find a gift for him that would make him smile, make him react, make him emotive? I felt that I had failed in this area of our marriage. My husband is constantly giving me great gifts that elicit tremendous outbursts of thank yous and heartfelt hugs. He had just that very day surprised me with a dozen long-stemmed roses for no reason at all! I was shocked and elated! Why could I not reciprocate?

Hurt, I retreated, as I am predisposed to do. After a period of time, my husband searched me out. He sat down enveloping me in his loving embrace; I confess to him my feelings of failure. "Why can I not make you happy?" I asked. He said, "You do make me happy. I love our life together. I love spending time with you. I love watching your reactions when I give you gifts. I love how you create such a beautiful home for the kids and me. I'm spoiled by the delicious meals that you make. I love you!" "Then, why can't I give you a gift that will make you happy?" I pleaded... He replied, "Mary, YOU are the gift! YOU make me happy. YOU are my gift! And I get to enjoy you every day! With you, every day is like my birthday!"

I am the gift? If I am the gift why had I worked and strived and planned year after year to give my husband, and in reality, my children, my family and friends the best gifts possible? Why did I assess my value based on what I was doing in the moment as opposed to who I was being? Why had I sold myself short for so many years wishing to be a person of value when I apparently already was? Realization flooded my being. It became clear to me that my husband's receptivity to my gift giving was not the real issue. The real issue was one of worth, self-worth!

I finally grasped that I am the gift that those in my sphere of influence need and want. I, not my offerings, am the "pearl of great price" to those who love me. I am not alone in assessing more value to things over self. You must know that you too are the gift that those who reside in the orbit of your life want and need. You with your uniqueness, your compassion, your love, your humor, your quirkiness, your you-ness! You are the gift that those in your world crave.



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December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 EPIC Youth	5	6	7 Brotherhood Breakfast DOVES Trim-A-Tree And decorate
8	9	10	11 EPIC Youth	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 EPIC Youth	19	20	21
22 Fruit bags morning Youth Christmas Play 6:00pm Exchange gifts & finger foods	23	24	25  CHRISTMAS No Church Service	26	27	28
29	30	31 Spanish church Will have new years Eve service at our church				

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are encouraged by high-powered advertising firms to shop 'til we drop, often spending far more than we can realistically afford in the process. We will search high and low for the perfect gift for those on our Christmas lists, thinking that somehow our love for them is transmitted by and through the present under the tree or that we are somehow elevated in worth or status by the expense of the gift. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive. From the heart giving is an all-encompassing joy that is not easily matched. But, while you shop this season remember that there is no gift that you can purchase that will ever be able to top the gift of yourself. You are the "pearl of great price"!

The best gift to offer those you love is and always will be YOU!

By Mary Cromwell Herrygers
(friend of Pat and Tangy)

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Emily and Savannah, (junior DOVES), are all dressed up and ready for their "Tea Party"