



## DCC February Newsletter

January 2018

Dixon Community Church 955 E. A St., Dixon, CA 95620

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**

### **Join Us for our Weekly Ministries**

- Sundays 9:00am The Well for youth, 9:45am Meet and Greet, 10:00am Church Service
- Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 am Room 2 -NO BIBLE STUDY ON January 2nd!
- Wednesday Nights 7:00pm Family Night/Bible Study
- SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY  
Dates for spring 2018:  
February 3rd & 17th,  
March 3rd, 17th & (possibly) 31st, April 14th & 28th, May 12th.  
Social/Breakfast time is from 8:30 am to 9:00 am.  
Study time is from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.  
This study meets at Miranda Barber's house.

From the Pastor's Desk-Rev. Dan Vraa

### **Love and Sacrifice** (by Pastor Dan Vraa)

This year, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are on the same day. This is going to make for some weird dates. "Hmm, should I give her roses and chocolates, or ashes and a black head scarf?" Or, a young man might be wondering why his lady has an ashen cross on her forehead. Is it a night for celebrating, or a night for somber reflection? Love or sacrifice?

Though not in the Bible, both holidays have Christian roots. As you know, the historical St. Valentine was a Christian martyr, who exemplified Christ-like love throughout his life and death. And Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Palm Sunday) is a season the Church created to encourage voluntary spiritual reflection, discipline, inventory, and humility.

Unfortunately, our culture has lost most of the original essence of these holidays. Valentine's Day has become a "date night" for romance, and Lent has become a superstitious labor to be dreaded. However, we can recapture the good value of each, as we put ourselves to intentional living for God's glory.

Valentine loved God and neighbor with the higher love God has for us: "agape" in the Greek New Testament. This selfless, altruistic love is what Christ exhibited for us on the Cross when He died for the sins of the World. We can learn to love God and others in this selfless way, as we experience God's grace offered in and through Jesus Christ. Rather than merely seeking our own romantic love through our personal sweetheart (though this is not a bad thing), we can seek to show Christ-like love to all people through our words and actions, thus fulfilling Christ's Law of Love.

Lent can become a time of rich feasting upon Prayer and the Word of God. By freely choosing to limit overindulgence (of food, computer, T.V. or some other time-consuming distraction), we can carve time and space for the Holy Spirit to confront and eradicate certain habits and/or attitudes that displease or dishonor God.

For Jesus Christ, love and sacrifice came from the same heart. For His disciples, love and sacrifice do not have to be an "either-or" dilemma, rather, love and sacrifice are two sides of the same godly heart which desires to love God and neighbor.

So, celebrate both days, if you wish, by deciding to show generous love to others, and personal self-inventory in the presence of God through prayer and scripture.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." [Colossians 3:17]

## DCC'S MINISTRIES AT WORK

### Deacon's Corner

- Communion will be served on February 18th.
- Deacons meeting February 27th at Finley's House.
- Please consider signing up for Deacon's Meal Ministries. You do not need to be a Deacon. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Contact Miranda if you have questions about Meal Ministries, or are in need of meals.

### Reveal

Check out our Student Ministries at <https://www.facebook.com/REVEALdcc/>

### Contact DCC

707-678-1981

[www.dixoncc.org](http://www.dixoncc.org)

Dec. 22: Many bags of food were delivered to a hungry family in town.

Jan. 5: Food was given to a homeless man who has been living in his car (which had just been stolen, then recovered).

Jan. 9: Food and a ride were given to a man and two small children. He is on Disability, and just recovering from pneumonia. They were told of our clothing closet so they could get some clothing for the family.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 10th - Valentine's Dinner - 6:00 pm in the DCC Social Hall - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.**  
RSVP to Miranda  
by e-mail at [barbermiranda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barbermiranda@sbcglobal.net)  
or by text at (707) 301-1184.  
Volunteers for child care service needed!  
Please contact Miranda.
- **February 11th - Annual Congregational Voting Meeting - Approx. 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Lunch will be served in the Social Hall between service and the meeting.**
- **February 14th - Ash Wednesday Service - 6:30 pm**

## THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO "Hmmm"

Did Apostles Go to China? Evidence suggests Christianity reached China in the first century. By Ted Olsen. Posted 10/21/2002.

That Christianity reached China by the end of the first century has long been dismissed as a myth. Now, says the Chinese People's Daily, evidence suggests it really happened. Wang Weifan from Jinling Seminary says tombstone carvings from about a.d. 86 depict Bible stories and Christian designs. "Somebody certainly was taking the Great Commission rather seriously," says Ralph Covell, senior professor of world Christianity at Denver Seminary. Though this discovery may reset the date of Christianity's arrival by 550 years, Covell notes that the a.d. 635 meeting between Nestorian Christian Alopen and Chinese emperor T'ang T'ai Tsung had much greater influence.

