

Church News

Make sure you are the real thing!

Gale and I both agree that we need to eat less candy, but putting our intentions into practice is often a challenging task. We made a great deal of candy during the Christmas season, one of which was pecan brittle. I have developed a pretty good following of those who enjoy the tasty treat; unfortunately it is loaded with sugar fortified calories. We still have some leftovers in the freezer which are difficult for me to resist when I open the freezer door. I told my wife that we need to bury the candy under other frozen things so we won't be so tempted to indulge in it, but so far it lies conveniently near the top with easy access!

I recall one time some time ago as I sat in my easy chair with no one else present, there happened to be one of my favorite candy bars within hand's reach. Temptation was heavy and it got the better of me, but I came up with a scheme to hide my weakness. I slipped the contents out without destroying the wrapper, enjoyed the sweet snack, and reshaped the empty wrapper so it looked just like it did to start with. As you might guess,



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the perceived character of a person is proven to be false. In Matthew 23:27 Christ exposed the deceptive hearts of the hypocritical religious leaders of His day with this blistering statement: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean" (New International Version). As hypocrites, they were pretenders; they claimed to be one thing, but the true contents of their hearts proved them to be otherwise. Just as He could see through

my attempt at innocence was short-lived as the sharp eye of my lovely wife discovered that the "candy bar" was only an empty shell. It might have appeared like it did before, but it was empty; it was a fake, robbed of its contents.

It is a letdown when tangible things are found to be inauthentic, but it is devastating when the perceived character of a person is proven to be false. In Matthew 23:27 Christ exposed the deceptive hearts of the hypocritical religious leaders of His day with this blistering statement: "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean" (New International Version). As hypocrites, they were pretenders; they claimed to be one thing, but the true contents of their hearts proved them to be otherwise. Just as He could see through

their duplicity then, the Lord knows the true nature of our lives. No matter how convincing the outward appearance is, He knows the kind of person we really are.

In the writings of the apostle Paul, he includes this bit of guidance for us to strive toward to help insure that we are genuine in Christian character: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:9-10). In the verses that follow he gives a variety of directives about authentic Christian living against which we should evaluate our lives consistently to make sure that what is seen on the outside by others is what is really on the inside of our hearts. These words of Psalm 139 make a fitting prayer for each of us: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting" (verses 23-24).

Among the things that we desire to take place in our lives in 2021 we should include that of being genuine in our walk with God — not a pretender that only appears to be an authentic follower of Christ but one who truly knows and serves Him. Only He can transform us from the inside out, and He will if we will allow Him to.

Church Briefs

A new year series of sermons on our Lord's Prayer continues this Sunday at **First Presbyterian Church** as we consider the significance of the word "Our." "The Difference Between Jabez and Jesus's Prayer." Our worship services are at 11 a.m. and are available in person and Facebook. Call 524-5138 for information.

Weekly Devotion

from Alex Howell

"For God did not give us a 'spirit of fear' but of power, love and a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7

There are many things that can cause fear. But there is a "spirit of fear" from our enemy and not God that attempts to control our emotions and make us fearful about even the smallest things.

As we face the challenges of everyday life, our greatest fear is God not showing up when we need Him. Our enemy will always attempt to bring us fear to doubt that God's word is true.

Job was no different. He was so fearful that his sons had sinned and cursed God that the Bible says he "greatly feared" (Job 3:25).

Many ask the question What about Job? Well, what about him? We aren't disciples of Job, we are disciples of Jesus. Any question we have about Job or anything in the Old Testament, should lead us to Jesus as the answer. If not, then we didn't understand the question.

Jesus only said what God told Him to say (John 12:49). And Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). How could He say that? Because He has made a covenant with us better than any covenant ever before (Hebrews 8:6). He did say, "I am your ever present help in time of need (Ps.46:1).

So when fear raises its ugly head in your life, tell Jesus "Here, this is for you." He will say, "I've been waiting for you to release your fear to me."

He is willing and able and He is always the answer.



As a weekly celebration of the
Seminole County Centennial Year,
enjoy this selection of long time editor
Bo McLeod's **Out on a Limb**, reprinted from the
January 26, 1967 edition of the **Donalsonville News**

Out on a Limb . . . By BO McLeod

I prefer the wait and see method, or is it the wait and don't see?

I have heard a rumor that pro football season is over.

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President Johnson has the kind of budget we need at home. If you don't have enough money to do it all, you just draw another pie and slice it up again.

If you need more money, you just play like you have it, spend it, and on it goes.

Of course most of us are practicing deficit spending to be sure, but the take back men and the installment collection notices have a way of keeping us within only a few slices of the real thing.

The budget asks for a pile of money to make war in Vietnam, and to escalate the war against poverty at home.

It points out that if we can ever get this business of war and peace settled so

all sides can accept it and believe in it, it won't cost much for Uncle Sam. That's not yet, of course, so you can get ready to go a little deeper in debt until then.

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I don't know what's the matter with Lyndon, anyway. He and George Wallace(s) are among the very few successful politicians who are not recording stars. Sen. Dirksen was one of the first, now he's been followed by A. Powell with his "Keep the Faith, Baby", which just might make the top ten in some sections of the country.

Of course our Lester was one of the pioneers in the recording business. He made one a few years ago about "mah guv'mint and mah presi-dent", and he's working regular now.

Let that be a lesson to you, LBJ. Drag out the gargle and hum a few bars of something.

Call yourself something snappy, and croon that

beloved tune, "The IOUs of Texas are Upon You, too, Baby!" for a starter.

How about "Keep the Faith, Taxpayer!" for the flip side?

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Within just a few more years, one man will be able to look after 80,000 to 100,000 broilers alone, the new president of the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association said Tuesday ...

Boy, it makes you tired just to think about such a thing.

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The news reports tell of trouble in Red China. The peasants are turning against the leaders, or something like that. Maybe it's the leaders turning against the peasants. I'm not sure. It's hard to keep up with

Chinese politics.

The next thing you know, they'll be telling us of a riot or demonstration (non-violent) protesting involvement in the Vietnam War.

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The State Election Board will propose a Constitutional Amendment to abolish legislative election of a Governor. Or, hurry and shut the barn. The hoss is gone!

It's a good idea, of course, and if only they could go further and outlaw projects like the one that messed up our last voting they'd have something.

Not that I'm against write-ins. I'm for them, as it could be Johnson vs. Javits, one of these days, remember.

City of Donalsonville Holiday Sanitation Collection Schedule

MARTIN LUTHER KING

If Regular Collection is on:	Holiday Collection will be on:
Monday, January 18, 2021	Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Please have your roll cans at curbside by 8:00 a.m. on the dates provided, and leave it there until it is serviced.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Sanitation Department

DO

- Wear it whenever you are in public settings
- Make sure it covers your nose + mouth
- Wash after each use



**WEAR
a
MASK**

DON'T

- Use for children 2 and under
- Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for health care workers



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Your upcoming Special Services and Special Events

We reach more Seminole Countians than anyone else!
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