

Winter Precautions

Winter is a time of year when we spend a lot of time indoors and around others. That means that colds and flu can be spread easily. The World Health Organization tells us that an antibiotic emergency is occurring. This is a result of antibiotic resistance which happens when bacteria change and become resistant to drugs used to treat the infections they cause. Pharmaceutical firms have scaled back or shut down their antibiotic research and development. The last wholly new class of antibiotics was developed in 1984. Antibiotics need to work quickly: bacteria multiply fast, doubling every 20 minutes. They say that development of new antibiotics is not only difficult but often a failure in real-life trials. Since these drugs are used on the patients who are very sick, the drug must be safe as well as tolerated by the human body.

While the development of antibiotic resistance is inevitable, there are plenty of ways to slow it down. The **abuse** and **misuse** often works against the slowing down. They are often prescribed when they're inappropriate—most often for viral infections (such as colds and flu). Patients often visit health care providers and request antibiotics for conditions that don't need this type of treatment. Even when an antibiotic is appropriate, the drug is not taken as directed.

So, what is your role in resolving this problem? Without a laboratory confirmed diagnosis, physicians and others are just guessing!! The organism needs to be identified first and then the condition treated with the correct medication. It's important to: 1) only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional; 2) always take the full prescription even if you feel better; 3) never use left-over antibiotics; 4) never share antibiotics with others; and 5) prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date.

Submitted by Jo Flanders

Huss also taught a number of other ideas that would become very important in the life and work of the later Reformers. Perhaps the most important of these was Huss' practice of serving both the bread and the cup during the Communion service. Prior to this, it had become increasingly common for priests to serve only the bread, while drinking of the cup themselves on behalf of the gathered congregation. Huss, and the later Reformers, argued that such a practice is not only absent from Scripture, but that it denies worshippers of the spiritual rewards won for them by Christ.

One other event bears mentioning here and that is the period known as *the Renaissance*. While not explicitly religious in nature, this was an era of renewed learning, in which many of the works and ideas of the ancient writers and thinkers were rediscovered. One crucial rediscovery was the writings and witness of the early Church, which exposed even further many of the corruptions within the Medieval Church. As more such documents came to light, some of which directly contradicted later Catholic developments such as transubstantiation (the teaching that the bread and wine become the literal body and blood of Jesus), more doubt was cast upon a Church that had steadily become unmoored from its biblical roots.

To be sure, this is a very general summary of the period immediately preceding the Reformation. However, hopefully it serves to show that the spirit of yearning for a purer, more holy Church did not begin with Luther and Calvin and their ilk, but had rather been building for many generations!

On the journey with you,

Mike

Happy February Birthday!

Let's Pray Prayers of Joy for These People on Their Special Day!



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2/01 Marlin Holtmyer | 2/03 Robert Bentley |
| 2/11 Lois Harris | 2/12 Vicki Zimmerman |
| 2/18 Jack Frost | 2/21 Robin Caldwell |
| 2/21 Steve Reasor | 2/23 Dale Pollock |

If we missed your Birthday, please let us know.

A lunch honoring February Birthdays will be held at Jimmy's Egg at noon on Wednesday, 15th. Everyone is welcome.
Please call or email your plans to attend to:
Eloise Hofman elbohof@cableone.net or 580-252-2476.



Youth Food Harvest

"Fruitful February"

February 19th

Canned &
Dried Fruits



In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They answer "Some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah, and still others, One of the prophets." Then Jesus asks them, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:28-29).

That is a good question and the

FPC Circle Members

will be studying this year. Circle Meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:30p.m. In the Fellowship Hall February 9th. Come Join Us in this Study!

Prayer Corner

Let us keep our family and friends in our prayers:

Robin Caldwell family, The Arrington Family, Sue Beall, Patty Jennings, Cliffa Jean Belinski, Jean Ann Reed, Beverly Chalkboyer, Robin Glover & Emily Ritter

Let us remember those unable to attend worship service:

Janis Hruby, Colleen Winn, Jack Munn and Beverly Moody

We are Also in Prayer for:

Our Government and President, Our Pastor, Session, Diaconate & Drs. Leslie and Cindy Morgan, missionaries in Bangladesh



OFFICERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Class of 2017
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Mike Grantham

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Tim Burns

Treasurer –Bennie Drake

Asst. Treasurer –Mike Grantham



We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on **February 5, 2016** during the worship service.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT FAW ENTRY IS

February 17, 2016



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First Presbyterian Church
"FAITH - AT - WORK"

704 West Ash Avenue
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Issue 2

February 2017

On October 31, 1517, when a young German monk named Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" to the door of the castle in Wittenberg, Germany, the era we now know as the Protestant Reformation began in earnest. 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of that event and so it seems fitting to dedicate this year's newsletter articles to a variety of subjects related to the Reformation movement. Over the course of the next few months, we'll explore some of the key doctrines, as well as some of the important players and events of that pivotal era in history.

Perhaps one of the lesser known facts about the Reformation is that it did not begin with Martin Luther. In fact, as early as the thirteenth century, scattered reform-minded movements began to spring up across Europe as the population was growing increasingly dissatisfied with both the political and religious status quo. On the one hand, nationalistic fervor was overtaking larger portions of the population leading greater numbers to question the necessity and future of the Holy Roman Empire. On the other hand, widespread corruption within the Catholic hierarchy motivated some Christian leaders to call for purification within the Church.

One of the very earliest reform groups was known as the *Albigenses*. Though ultimately heretical in their doctrine, their popularity in southern France nevertheless pointed to a climate ripe for spiritual and religious reform. Around the same time, another group, the *Waldensians*, also began to emerge in France. Named for its founder, Peter Waldo, this movement called for a return to Scripture as the primary guide (or "rule") for the Christian's faith and life. What does this mean? Put simply, it means that if a doctrine or a practice is not clearly taught and/or commanded in Scripture, it cannot be considered binding upon God's people. Their emphasis upon Scripture is just one of several ways the *Waldensians* foreshadowed the work of the later Reformers.

Within a generation or two, more reform movements began to appear. In England, a young professor of theology named *John Wycliffe* began to criticize the clergy in the late fourteenth century. He also taught the priority of Scripture as a guide and rule for the life and faith of the believer, and having been trained in the biblical languages, then set about translating the Bible into English so that it could be read by the common person.

Born near the end of Wycliffe's life, another early advocate of reform was *Jan Huss*. Huss was from the area of Europe known then as Bohemia (modern day Czech Republic). Huss had trained for the priesthood, but would later become a professor of theology at the University of Prague. After coming across the teachings of John Wycliffe early in his teaching career, Huss began to speak out against the corruption he and many others saw within the clergy and the larger Church.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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