

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

February 2024

What Does the World Need Now?

If you are a baby-boomer, you may have heard or even sung along with the 1965 hit song “What the World Needs Now is Love” by Jackie DeShannon. The song conveyed to us in the counter-culture of the 60’s that what ‘the world needs now is love – sweet love – it’s the only thing that’s there’s just too little of!’

It surely sounds good enough, and considering all the hate, war, confusion, and conflict we live with today, couldn’t we all use a little more love? What could possibly be wrong with more love? The lyrics of the song tell us we don’t need any more mountains or meadows or hillsides to climb, but all we need is love – not just for some – but for everyone.

But is love what the world really needs now?

Actually, a lot can go wrong with love without Jesus Christ. Love can become an idol, perverted, distorted, and used for evil. For instance, who does not know “the love of money is the root of all evil”: “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

Paul tells us that the Corinthians were living in love of fleshly indulgence (1 Corinthians 6:13-16). The world says, what’s wrong with love and happiness if it doesn’t harm anyone?

(continued on Page 2)



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday Messages available on website:

(www.avalongracechurch.com)

Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM

**“And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**

- Ephesians 3:9

What Does the World Need Now? (Continued from Page 1)

But our apostle Paul rightly called it sin that did not glorify God: "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

People who have not trusted in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins can certainly love each other without God; living darkened lives in love and love pleasure more than God: "For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? For sinners also love those that love them." (Luke 6:32)

But the sad reality is that people all around us who reject Jesus Christ celebrate Valentine's Day with love, flowers, candy, romantic cards, and gifts across the world in darkness. And there is nothing wrong with celebrating Valentine's Day. However, the truth is that these loving people perish if they do not hear, know, or love the truth: "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." (2 Thessalonians 2:10). "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (2 Timothy 3:14)

Love must be tempered by truth. That's what the world needs now! Without the truth all our loving words and deeds become worldly and worthless. You cannot have the truth without Christ: "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2:3)

Love is NOT the answer for the world. Only JESUS is. And only Jesus is pure love: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ;" (Ephesians 4:15)

"Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;" (1 Corinthians 13:6)

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Valentine's Day is a day on the calendar set aside each year to express our love and appreciation for so many people who make our lives so blessed, special and complete! And that's a good thing! So with that, Happy Valentine's Day and Happy Leap Year too!!

Always, for His glory, Pastor Phil



(The Gang That Sang) Heart of My Heart

By Ben Ryan (1892-1968) in 1926



"Heart of my heart",
I love that melody
"Heart of my heart"
brings back a memory
When we were kids on
the corner of the street
We were rough and ready guys
But oh, how we could harmonize

"Heart of my heart" meant
friends were dearer then
Too bad we had to part
I know a tear would glisten
If once more I could listen
To the gang that sang
"Heart of my heart"



Happy Leap Year!

By Toni Samuels, Phillipsburg, NJ - February, 2016

When was the last time you leaped? It's not something that most of us do on a regular basis. Yet this year we're all journeying through a collective "leap in time" since 2024 is a leap year. Looking beyond the calendar, though, what might prompt us to "leap" with gratitude, joy, and enthusiasm in our personal lives this year? A quick look at God's Word in the Bible reveals some compelling reasons:



Fulfillment of a God-given desire – David was overjoyed as the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. "And as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw King David *leaping* and dancing before the Lord." 2 Samuel 6:16a KJV

Receiving strength and courage – "For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall." Psalm 18:29 KJV

Receiving encouragement - "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets." Luke 6: 22-23

A loving and joyful marriage – "The voice of my beloved! behold, he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills." Song of Solomon 2:8 (KJV)

A unique encounter with Jesus – "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb." Luke 1:41 KJV

A miraculous healing – A lame man at the Beautiful Gate in the Temple hoped that Peter and John would give him alms. But Peter's short and powerful prayer, in the name of Jesus, gave him so much more: the ability to walk. "And he, *leaping* up stood, and, walked, and entered with them into the temple walking, and leaping, and praising God." Acts 3:8 KJV

Although we might not leap physically, as David did, we can leap in our hearts as God's blessings unfold in our lives this year. May we all experience many reasons to call 2024 our personal leap year!

Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and **LEAP** for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets. Luke 6:22-23

February Reflections . . .



HEART to HEART

(Gently lifted from The Berean Bible Society's January Edition of "The Berean Searchlight")

Abounding Grace

"...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20).

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

"Who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification" (Rom. 4:25).

Where sin abounded, grace much more abounded by God's love.
When Jesus for our sake came down, and left the throne above.

The rich One from the Glory bright, for our sake, was made poor,
And untold pain and anguish on the cross He did endure.

They mocked Him, and derided Him, with hatred in their face,
But in return, He offers them His wondrous, matchless grace.

They scourged Him, and they buffeted, with cruel, heavy blow,
But Jesus answered not a word, because He loved them so.

The very hatred in man's heart, which nailed Him to the cross,
He used to bless His enemies. To save their souls from loss.

The very spear that pierced His side, by cruel, hateful man,
Brought forth the blood to cleanse their souls, by God's redemptive plan.

When awful hatred—matchless love—at Calv'ry's cross did meet,
The Saviour wrought a finished work, atonement was complete.

O will you not accept this One, Who suffered thus for thee?
Then peace, and rest, and joy are thine, throughout eternity. —Author unknown

"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).



Quotes for the Wise & Young at Heart:

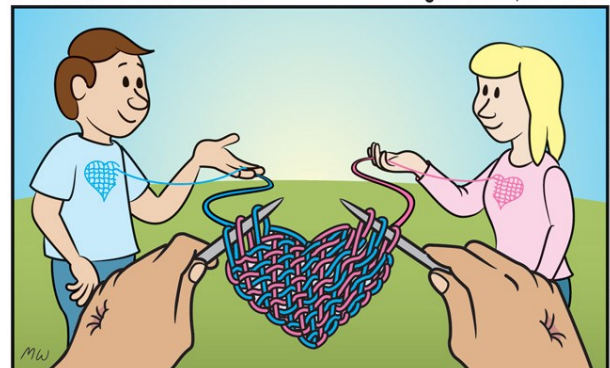
A bell is no bell 'til you ring it,
A song is no song 'til you sing it,
And love in your heart - wasn't put there to stay -
Love isn't love - 'til you give it away.
~Oscar Hammerstein, *Sound of Music*, "You Are Sixteen (Reprise)"

Grow old with me! The best is yet to be. ~Robert Browning

Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity. ~Henry Van Dyke

JOINED TOGETHER

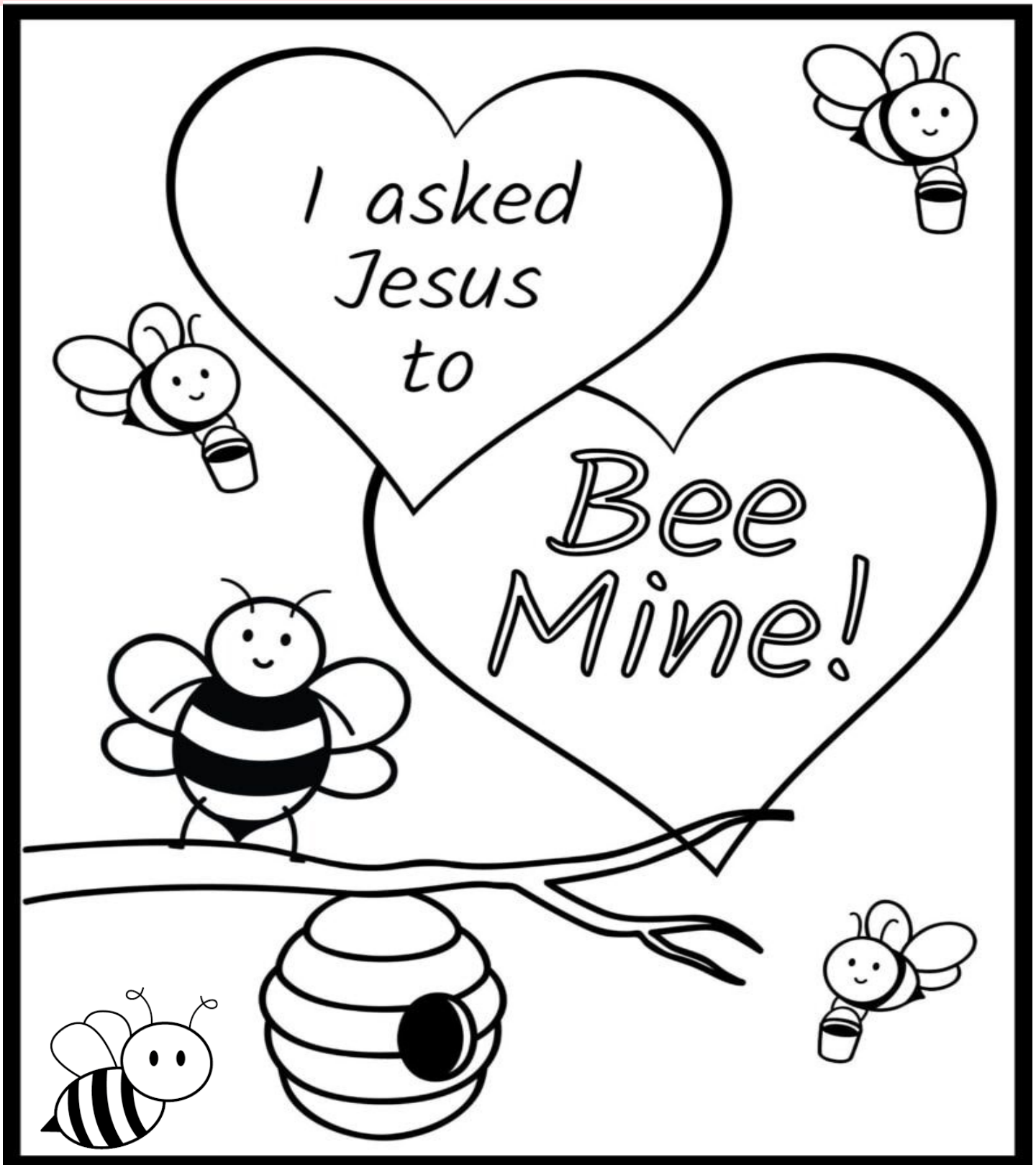
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



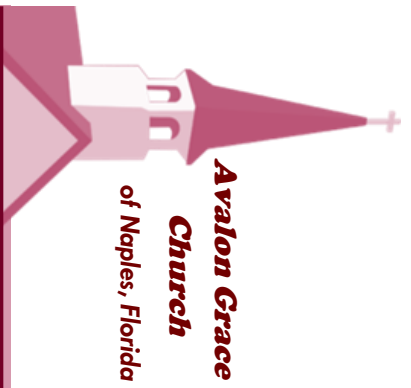
Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

— MATTHEW 19:6 KJV

Coloring for Jesus



"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." John 10:28 KJV



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida

February 2024



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1	2	3	
				GROUND HOG DAY 		

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45 Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY		VALENTINE'S DAY			

18	19	20	22	23	24	25
10:30 AM Sunday Worship The LORD'S Supper 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
	PRESIDENT'S DAY OBSERVED		WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY			

26	27	28	29			
10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
			LEAP DAY ONE EXTRA DAY			



FEBRUARY
6th Phillip McClellan
26th Olivia McClellan

COMING IN MARCH 2022
64th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast