



Vineyard of Faith LC-MS
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 www.vof.org

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November 2009

Inside this issue:

Staff & MST	2
Pastor Ted Mueller	3
From Pastor Lonnie	4
Stephen Ministry	5
MST Minutes, Financials	6
Volunteers Schedules	7
Save the Date!	8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	8
Calendar	9
Sponsors Page	10

November Events

November 7th, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
 D.I.V.E. Team Event: Rake & Run

November 13th, 5:00 PM– 9:00 PM
 November 14th, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Annual VOF Holiday Shopping Faire

November 25th, 7:00 PM
 Thanksgiving Eve Service

NEED TO CONTACT THE STAFF?

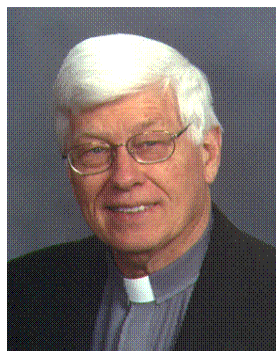
Church Office: (707) 837-8712

Lonnie Felcher

Pastor Intern

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- pastorlonnie@vof.org



Rev. Ted Mueller

Supervising Pastor

- ext. 202

- pastorted@vof.org

Ken Corriea

Music Director

- ext. 203

- kcorriea@vof.org



Photo
Coming
Soon

Angel Frische

Administrative Assistant

- ext. 200

- office@vof.org

Sharie Lefor

Stephen Ministry Coordinator (Volunteer)

shariel@juno.com

Vision Statement

Our vision is to share God's grace and love with everyone we can through innovative expressions of faith. As a Christ-centered church family, we will care for all people and equip Christians for a significant life-changing ministry.

Ministry Support Team

Dave Anderson: Chairman, Fellowship

Jeanice Holtzer: Treasurer, Worship

Ken Corriea: Music & Drama Ministry

Barbara Killean: Secretary, Fellowship

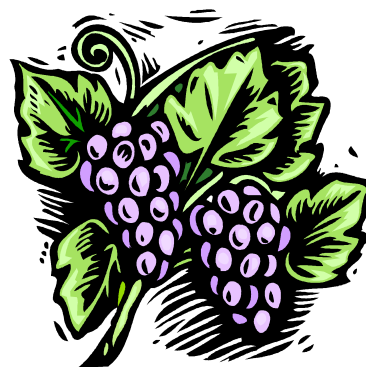
Dan Frische: Property

Larry Lefor: Worship Ministry

Renee Ortiz: Youth Ministry

Delores Hampton: Vice-Chair, Evangelism

Open: Stewardship



"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit..."

- John 15:5



Thanksgiving — *Never by our own efforts*

***“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” -Psalms 103:1-2 (RSV)***

Most of the year, our yard is a riot with birds. I love to fill our bird feeders in both the front and back of the house. Right now there are hundreds of little finches eating thistle seed from the hanging socks and, oh joy, the humming birds are still flying about.



When Jesus talked about the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, we think of them leading a special life. They have no worries, no cares. God provides for them. They just eat, sing, fly, play and live as though there are no problems in the world.

Sparrows had so little value in biblical times that they were sold for two for a penny. Their lives still aren't worth very much. A sudden cold snap in the Mid-west or East coast and winter freezes them by the thousands. Even in summer, they're constantly searching for food.

They never have much time to watch the sunset or smell the roses.

But then, if I had to eat my weight in seeds – or bugs – every day, I probably wouldn't have much free time either. If I had to find 195 pounds of food a day, I'd probably flap around even more frantically than the average sparrow.

Birds work a lot harder for their daily bread than we do.

Plants can't chase food the way birds do. But that doesn't make their life any easier. One day, I forgot to water our hanging baskets. One day a small fuchsia was a fountain of bright red and pink flowers; the next day, it was a withered corpse.

And Jesus knew that. He acknowledged that plants could blossom one day and burn the next.

Birds and plants don't necessarily have a life to be envied.

They have one advantage over us, though. They're never tempted to think that they achieved their survival by their own efforts. We are. And I suspect that's the real point of Jesus' little talk in Matthew, chapter 6, to his people.

The more we struggle to provide for ourselves, the more we take the credit for it. *“What shall we eat?”* We ask, and think that by making a choice, we somehow created the food. *“What shall we wear?”* we ask, and think we are somehow responsible for those clothes.

In fact, we are simply at the end of a long chain of God's work that started with His creating a fertile plant overflowing with life.

Like the sparrows and lilies, we are dependent on God. Everything we have comes from God, as an act of His grace. The Bible says that in Psalm 145:15-16 ***“The eyes of all look to thee, and thou givest them their food in due season. 16 Thou openest thy hand, thou satisfiest the desire of every living thing.”*** RSV

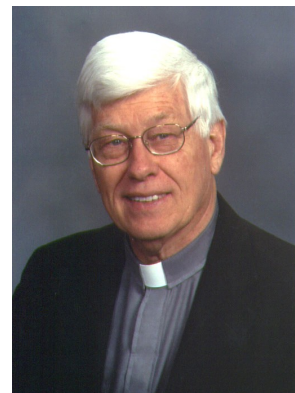
The sparrows and the lilies accept that grace, unthinkingly. We too should learn to accept it, with genuine thanksgiving.

God provides for us; thanks be to God. Our text puts it well: ***“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,. . .”*** (RSV)

Will you please join me in thinking about the HAND of GOD opening and pouring blessing upon blessing into your life every day? Then join our Vineyard of Faith family on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November, 25th at 7:00 pm to give Him your praise and thanks! Oh, one more thing, why not invite some friends and/or neighbors to join us in worship that evening.

In the Love of Jesus,

Ted C. Mueller, *Transition Pastor*



From Pastor Lonnie's Desk...

God is indeed good. It has already been four months since Tanna and I came to be part of your family, and much has happened in that short time. I continue to believe God has great plans for the family at Vineyard of Faith.

While writing to all of you I'm reminded of God's goodness as I gaze out the open window of my office where the grasses behind the church have turned a beautiful shade of green. It seems that just a few short days ago the back field was dry and brown, but God brought new life to that dead field by means of simple water.

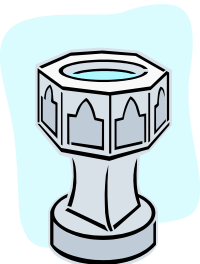
As the warm afternoon air comes through that open window I can't help but think of the blessing of holy baptism and the new life God gives as His free gift to us, his beloved children, especially as He marked my dad as his beloved child through the redemptive waters of baptism on the 18th of October.



I am grateful that so many of you were able to witness that blessed event.

I also thank all of you for reminding me, with your applauds after the baptism, that the angels in heaven all celebrate with God when one of Jesus' lost sheep is found (Luke 15:1-7).

Paul's words to Titus reminds us that, through His loving kindness, God became our savior by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



As the holidays are quickly coming upon us I pray God's peace and blessings will sustain you and your families, and keep you focused on His gifts for this life and His gift that brings eternal life, even Jesus your Savior.

God's blessings to you all in His name.

David's Song of Thanks - 1 Chronicles 16:7-36 (ESV)

- ⁸ Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- ⁹ Sing to him; sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
- ¹⁰ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- ¹¹ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
- ¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,
- ¹³ O offspring of Israel his servant,
sons of Jacob, his chosen ones!
- ¹⁴ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- ¹⁵ Remember his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,
- ¹⁶ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- ¹⁷ which he confirmed as a statute to Jacob,
as an everlasting covenant to Israel,
- ¹⁸ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan,
as your portion for an inheritance."
- ¹⁹ When you were few in number,
and of little account, and sojourners in it,
- ²⁰ wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another people,
- ²¹ he allowed no one to oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their account,
- ²² saying, "Touch not my anointed ones,
do my prophets no harm!"

- ²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth!
Tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ²⁵ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,
and he is to be held in awe above all gods.
- ²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and joy are in his place.
- ²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O clans of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
- ²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
- ³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth;
yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
- ³¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"
- ³² Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!
- ³³ Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.
- ³⁴ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!
- ³⁵ Say also: "Save us, O God of our salvation,
and gather and deliver us from among the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name,
and glory in your praise.
- ³⁶ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!"





“GriefShare, Your Journey from Mourning to Joy”

I was scanning my emails recently and came upon one from a lady living in Oregon who said she was fortunate enough to have a church that sponsors GriefShare. She said that it helped her husband and herself so much that they took the class twice. You see, there had been multiple deaths in their family and she was looking for a group that met close to her parents, who live in the Santa Rosa area.

I forwarded the email to Paula Krause-Finley to see if she had any plans to start up a new group. Paula called and said there had been others wanting her to begin the 13-week sessions and she is willing to start up a seminar in Windsor for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one.

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now.

That's the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close. This group is sponsored by people who understand what you are experiencing and want to offer you comfort and encouragement during this difficult time.

Each GriefShare session includes a DVD seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These DVD's also include on-location video and the real-life stories of people who have experienced losses like yours.

The following is a handout from GriefShare with some helpful suggestions.

How to Communicate With a Grieving Person

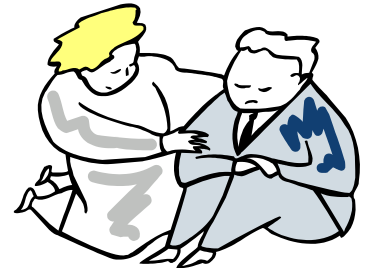
You may be hesitant to approach a person grieving the death of a family member or friend. Not knowing what to say, you may tend to avoid this person at the time he or she needs your support. In doing so, you may unintentionally hurt the person deeply.

There is not a formula or simple way to approach a grieving person. It is your heart of concern and love that you need to express. Be genuine. Be authentic and say what you really mean. There is no way to say “just the right thing” to make it all okay. There are no magical words to take the hurt away.

There is a difference between pity (you are a victim) and empathy (I understand and I am with you).

Here are some helpful suggestions:

- Remain calm and nonjudgmental.
- Use direct and specific language (time, place, people surrounding) to help them reorient.
- Encourage people to talk about what happened prior to death.
- Mention the deceased by name.
- Show your humanity; be honest about how you feel.
- Make several short visits.
- Don't take over the decision-making process. Let the grieving people make plans (but do be prepared to intervene if you genuinely believe a decision is inappropriate or ill-advised.)
- Be willing to listen, especially in the evening.
- Let them cry and express their emotions.
- Visit during the weeks after the funeral when others get back to normal life but those grieving can't. (Be there for them when everyone else has moved away.)
- Minister to the whole family, but don't let them latch on in an unhealthy manner.
- If the bereaved want to talk about their loss, don't change the subject to a lighter topic.
- Don't say that you know how they feel. Each loss is unique.
- Don't be afraid to gently touch them in an appropriate manner. Hugs are often especially appreciated!
- Take your conversation cues from them. Silence is okay.
- Don't tell the bereaved how good they look to avoid talking about how bad they feel.



If you are not able to attend a seminar in the Windsor area, there is probably a GriefShare support group that meets near you. If you would like to find a GriefShare group, you can search an interactive database on the Internet at www.griefshare.org, or call at 800-395-5755. (Excerpts from GriefShare – Copyright 1999 Church initiative, used by permission.)

Stephen Ministers recently began the 13-Week GriefShare sessions as a part of our Continued Education. I am personally grieving the death of a loved one, my Uncle John, who passed away this summer. He was like a father to me. I am comforted and encouraged by each session and especially the time we spend sharing with each other what we learn from the session.

There have been times when members of our Stephen Ministry Team have walked along side someone dying. We have also come along side someone who has lost a loved one. Let us know if you need a Stephen Minister to come along side of you.

Serving Him, Sharie



Applying Bible Principles

In 1935, Dr. R. A. Forrest, president of Toccoa Falls College in Georgia, embarked on a trip to visit former students who were serving the Lord on the mission field. R. G. LeTourneau, a prominent Christian businessman, heard him speak in Omaha and was very encouraged by what he heard. The night before Dr. Forrest sailed to Japan, a letter arrived at his hotel containing a check from Mr. LeTourneau for \$1,000. Mr. LeTourneau thought it would be nice if Dr. Forrest "had some money in his pocket as he went around the world to give to folks in a tough spot."

Dr. Forrest was elated and kept a detailed accounting of how he used that money to minister to people in need. When he returned to New York, he mailed the records to Mr. LeTourneau. A few days later, a reply came from Mr. LeTourneau that simply read, "Come see me." When Dr. Forrest arrived at Mr. LeTourneau's office in Peoria, he found a man who was deeply moved by Dr. Forrest's record of changed lives. He said, "If you can be trusted with \$1,000 and make that kind of impact, you can be trusted with \$10,000" and gave him a check in that amount.

Dr. Forrest had received "without paying" and he gave "without pay" (Matt. 10:8). He typified the kind of giving that God expects each of us to demonstrate as we respond to His good gifts by giving back to Him what was rightfully His in the first place.

Charles Stanley wrote this: "When God deals with us, it is always in abundant grace. He is lavish with His love and forgiveness. None of us can ever repay Christ for what He did for us at Calvary. He generously gave His life so we could enjoy eternal life." He went on to say, "There are two kinds of people: **givers** and **keepers**. . . .If you, by God's grace, become a keeper, you will miss God's richest blessings. But when, by God's grace, you give yourself away, you will reap the **goodness of God**."

That's because it is impossible to outgive God who has a unique accounting system. He never divides; He always multiplies. Please trust Him today by giving generously to His Kingdom work in love. Remember Him who "richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).

Financial Report				
<i>Checking Account</i>				
	<u>Budget Needs</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference <Shortfall></u>
September 2009: (4 Sundays)	\$16,250.00	\$12,470.00	\$13,386.20	<-\$916.20>
Year To Date: (7/1/09-9/30/09)	\$ 48,750.00	\$40,939.30	\$45,512.44	<-\$4,573.14 >



MST Meeting minutes are always available on the bulletin board in the church or in the MST Binder in the Foyer/Narthex.



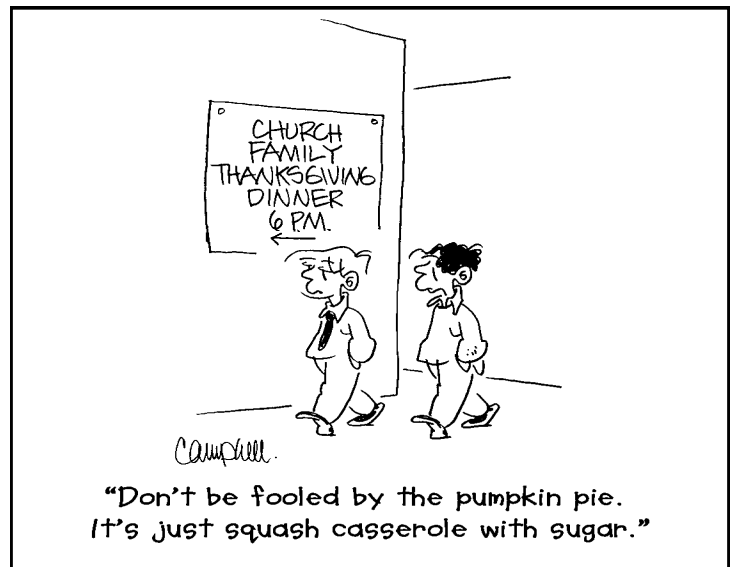
Good and Faithful Servants

November 2009 Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Acolytes	Prayer Partners	Communion Assistants	Sunday School
November 1st		Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty	Madeline Ortiz	Barbara Killean Cyndi Rogan Rick Rogan Steve Missner	Bill Gillette Steve Missner	Monica & Dana Angel & Andrea Cyndi Rogan
November 8th	Denise Sanders Joyce Wycoff	Alan Westergard Bob Lefor Gerald Schallon	Simone Barnard	Jeanice Holtzer Nancy Chadwick Larry Lefor Steve Humphrey	No Communion	Jill Barnard Joanne Hutchins Cyndi Rogan
November 15th	Linda Bracey Val Holbrook	John Young Dennis Ripple Dana Finger	Jackson Barnard	Angel Frische Delores Hampton Larry Lefor Steve Missner	Gerald Schallon Larry Lefor	Cheryl Hegg Angel & Andrea Jane Anderson
November 22nd	Cathy Ripple Dorothy Adkins	Dave Anderson Jane Anderson Pat Heagerty	Madeline Ortiz	Sharie Lefor Nancy Chadwick Larry Lefor Steve Missner	No Communion	Jill Barnard Joanne Hutchins Jane Anderson
November 29th		Alan Westergard Bob Lefor Gerald Schallon	Simone Barnard	Jeanice Holtzer Delores Hampton Larry Lefor Steve Missner	No Communion	Monica & Dana Angel & Andrea Cyndi Rogan

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV)



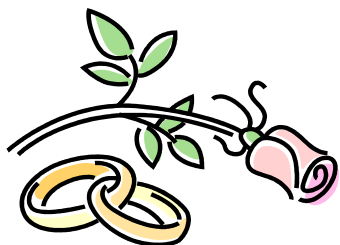


Happy Birthday!

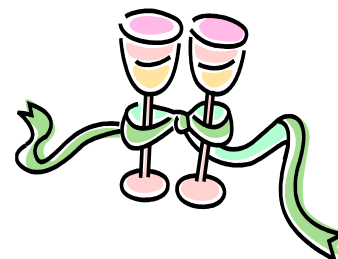


Austin Lefor	- November 1	Logan Missner	- November 11
Brett Doherty	- November 4	Mat Humphrey	- November 14
Jason Lefor	- November 4	Prisca Waltenspiel	- November 14
Nancie Chadwick	- November 5	Teara Barnes	- November 17
Grace Marcheschi	- November 6	Patrick Ortiz	- November 23
Marjorie Nunley	- November 8	Jeanice Holtzer	- November 25
Kelly Brewer	- November 9	Dennis Ripple	- November 27
Jack Allen	- November 10	Tanni Cordis	- November 29
Frank Carvalho	- November 10		

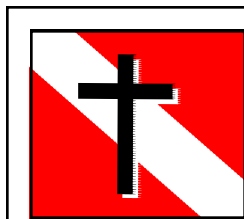
Happy Anniversary!



Gene & Diana Naber	- November 11
Chris & Lynette Davis	- November 22
Eric & Jill Allen	- November 27



Save The Date!



D.I.V.E. Team Events

Nov. 7th, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Rake & Run
 Nov. 11th, 7:00 PM: DIVE Bible Study & Meeting
 Dec. 5, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM: Drop & Shop

Everyone is welcome to join in any activity in way you are able!





Holiday Shopping Faire

Friday, November 13th: 5:00-9:00 PM
Saturday, November 14th: 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
 VOF Ministry Center

Get your Thanksgiving and Christmas shopping done early!
 Everything from catalog orders to hand made crafts.
 Snacks for sale by the Jr. & Sr. High Youth.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>November 2009</h1>						
 <p>1 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service COMMUNION 11:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>2 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Soulfire Sr.High</p>	<p>3 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>4 7:00 PM Confirmation 8:00 PM S.W.A.T. Jr. High</p>	<p>5 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice</p>	<p>6 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM DIVE Team: Rake & Run</p>	 <p>7 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study 9:30 AM DIVE Team: Rake & Run</p>
<p>8 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service 11:15 AM Sunday School 12:00 PM MST Meeting</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Soulfire Sr.High</p>	<p>10 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study</p>	<p>11 7:00 PM DIVE Team Mtg. 7:00 PM Confirmation 8:00 PM S.W.A.T. Jr. High</p>	<p>12 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice</p>	<p>13 5:00 PM Holiday Shopping Fair</p>	<p>14 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Holiday Shopping Fair</p>
<p>15 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service COMMUNION 11:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>16 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Soulfire Sr.High</p>	<p>17 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry</p>	<p>18 7:00 PM Confirmation 8:00 PM S.W.A.T. Jr. High</p>	<p>19 9:30 AM Just As I Am Ladies Bible Study 7:30 PM Praise Practice</p>	<p>20 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>21 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>22 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service 11:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>23 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Soulfire Sr.High</p>	<p>24 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM God's Iron Men Bible Study</p>	<p>25 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship Service</p>	<p>26 Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>27 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>28 7:30 AM Reel Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>29 8:30 AM Praise Practice 10:00 AM Praise Service 11:15 AM Sunday School</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM Great Expectations Ladies Bible Study 7:00 PM Soulfire Sr.High</p>	