

Family Life

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March 5, 2017

Western Agape Group Plans Luncheon Meeting Today

The **Western Agape Group** will have a **potluck luncheon** today in the fellowship hall after the morning worship service.

Members are asked to bring a main dish OR a vegetable dish. However, desserts, drinks and bread will be furnished.

If you have any questions, talk to Western group leader **Ann Ford**.



Central Agape Group Schedules "Care Bag Bagging" Date

The **Central Agape Group** plans to meet on Sunday, March 26, to sort a variety of essential items and fill "care bags" to keep on hand to distribute to the homeless /needy as the opportunity arises, according to **Janice McDaniel**, group leader.

The bags will include toiletries, basic clothing items, and non-perishable food and drink items that can be kept in a bag

Lesya Yeatman and **Lisa Swetnam** are coordinating this effort and preparing a list of items to be sacked. Other agape groups will be welcome to participate, and further details will be coming soon.

Next Wednesday Night Out Set for March 8

The next **Wednesday Night Out** dinner is coming up next Wednesday, March 8, from 6-7 pm.

The dinner will feature a taco bar with either chicken or beef, plus beans, rice, dessert & drinks.

The cost is the same - \$4 per adult and \$2 per child, but no more than \$20 per family.

THERE IS A SIGN UP SHEET IN THE LOBBY. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SO THAT THE CHEF KNOWS HOW MUCH FOOD TO PREPARE!!!!

Or you can call **Lisa Swetnam**.



Our Next 2nd Sunday Fellowship Is a Potluck Luncheon Sunday, March 12, After the Morning Assembly; There Will Be No Evening Assembly

Our next **2nd Sunday Fellowship Event** will be a **potluck luncheon** next Sunday March 12 after the morning worship service.

It is our custom to dismiss for the remainder of the day following such events. **AS SUCH THERE WILL BE NO EVENING ASSEMBLY NEXT SUNDAY.**

Since the luncheon is a potluck, each family is requested to bring the following:

- ⌘ a main dish (usually a meat or casserole to feed your family and a few others)
- PLUS** two of the following three items:
 - ⌘ a side dish (green beans, corn, potatoes...)
 - ⌘ a salad (leafy green, gelatin, pasta, potato); maybe a fruit or veggie tray with/without dip

OR

- ⌘ a dessert (no description necessary)

As usual, **ALL ASSISTANCE** is gratefully accepted. Don't be shy to volunteer!



The **Missions Committee** will meet Sunday, March 8, in R. 120 after the luncheon.

Pedro & Mireya Batres, Nicaragua

Pedro & Mireya Batres have served in the mission fields since 1969. He is a native of El Salvador and a graduate of the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, TX. His wife Mireya, a native of Nicaragua, holds a degree in social service. They worked in Nicaragua until moving to Guatemala in 1985, returning to Nicaragua in 2000. He is an evangelist in Managua, the capital city, and the surrounding areas, plus he is a popular guest speaker at special programs such as seminars, retreats and workshops. Mireya is a popular guest lecturer at women's events, especially pertaining to marriage and the family.



February 3, 2017

Dear elders of the Church of Christ in Falls Church,

It is a great pleasure for me to write this newsletter to you and to share with you some notes related with my ministry as an elder together with Roberto Aragón.

Brother Roberto is an insurance salesman and is very busy, but he uses his time to be with me attending to the members of the church in "Nueva Libia." We are a good Christian team attending our brethren and sisters in their difficulties, such as working with married couples, reaching out to unfaithful Christians, preparing the yearly budget for this congregation, visiting the brotherhood in their homes, preaching and teaching in our Christian meetings.

We meet on Wednesday or Friday, usually for at least two hours, and always at night because of Roberto's job, but sometimes manages to spend extra time with me due to special circumstances. As elders, we also hold regular meetings with the 4 deacons, 5 teachers and 2 evangelists.

Twice a year all of us meet together to talking about the church, but each team also meets separately. To take care of this congregation with over two hundred Christians is not so easy for two Elders and we are looking for a third, but that is difficult. So many brethren say "This ministry is too heavy." "I am not a good candidate." "I do not meet the Biblical requirements." And so forth.

Roberto and I have been Elders for three years, and we are satisfied because the church is going well in every sense. However, four coworkers have left. One deacon, who is a faithful Christian, had to leave because of his work schedule. Another teacher left because he moved with his family to another Church of Christ out of Managua where he is working as a part-time preacher. Sadly, two members of the team (a teacher and a deacon) left the church after engaging in a wrong behavior - adultery and total irresponsibility. We want to increase the number of brethren in the biblical leadership but it is not easy.

On the other hand, Roberto and I made the budget of the church for this year and it reached US \$1,200.00 (In Nicaraguan money the amount is 34.600.00 Córdoba.). This amount does not include building the second floor, purchasing new chairs or other necessary expenses. The Sunday collection is about US \$350.00, but sometimes goes up or down.

Furthermore, the Nicaraguan money is weak and has often suffered devaluation, so this instability makes it difficult to get to our goals. However the elders here are developing our ministry in spite of this and other difficulties. God is helping us and also to you, brethren, in this wonderful ministry as pastors of the Lord's flock.

Fraternally in Him,
Pedro Salvador Batres

Winterfest 2017: Identity - Who Are You?



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2.9 - .10)

Finding our identity in Christ as a chosen people

Imagine you are in elementary school again. It is recess and the game of the day is kickball. Your teacher chooses the team captains and then the captains begin to choose their teams. Typically this begins with the best, most popular or athletic kickball players being chosen first. As the class thins, the worst, least popular and weakest kickball players are chosen last. This is the way our culture works - the winners at the top get special treatment while the losers at the bottom get left out.

Now imagine this scenario again but upside down. The teacher picks two of the the worst, least popular and weakest kickball players to be the team captains. Then they begin to pick their team mates. Instead of the winners being on top, they end up being last, and those who are usually last end up being first.

This is what the LORD does. The LORD chooses us to be His people not because we are popular, athletic, successful and have our lives together. He chooses us because we are the least popular, least athletic, least successful and our lives are a mess.

Part of our identity in Christ is knowing we are chosen by the LORD not because of anything we do but because of what the LORD does.

GRACE + PEACE
John Bell

In Memorium to Marcia Fuentes

April 18, 1952 - December 14, 2016

Marcia Margarita Fuentes was born in Nacaome, Valle Honduras, but came to the United States in March 1988. Since she had been baptized in the Church of Christ in Honduras, she placed membership with the *Iglesia de Cristo* here at Falls Church immediately after her arrival in this area, and had been a dedicated and faithful member ever since.



She was known for her strong faith in God, and it was that faith that kept her going during the many years in which she suffered from repeated bouts of cancer. Despite her pain and the severity of her illness, she remained grateful to and praised God for all that He had done for her. And no matter how ill she was, she always made every effort to be present at the worship assembly.

Marcia was known also for her kindness, her generosity to those in need, her persistent prayer life on behalf of others, and her ability to talk to people about God, the Bible and faith. She was an example to everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her husband German, by four children, one of whom resides in Honduras, and by three grandchildren.

Ignacio and Sandra Espinoza, who have known Marcia for many years, describe her in this way. “She will be remembered by her family and by church members who were with her until the end.”



