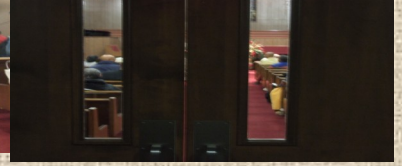
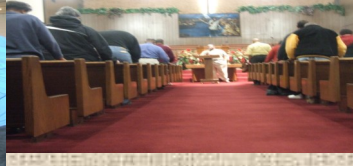
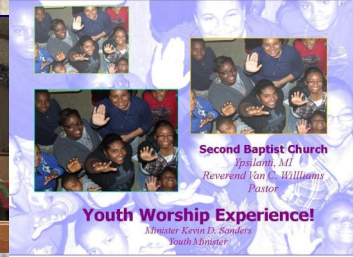


# A Place To Belong!



## What A Fellowship! *Trustee Linda Williams*

I have had great times fellowshiping at SBC! Church picnics--having fun (Bingo, Desserts, Contests) and relaxation in the sun, observing the kids playing on the bouncers, running and playing; and them never getting tired. Laughing at the adults, who are the overseers of the children... dead tired!

We have so many opportunities in life to build friendships through fellowship. Some of those friendships are nurtured and blossom. While others crumble and fade away.

Those relationships that are nurtured and true encourage people to think about you

when you're not around. They will check on you when you're going through those tough times in life. They're happy when you have blessings in your life.

It's precious and, yet difficult to form the perfect words to describe fellowship.

Romans 12:15 states, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep".

Fellowship is therapeutic and helps us to redirect our attention back to the mission of Christian brotherly love and leading the lost souls to Christ.

Okay, I know you're asking yourself "how will this redirect our attentions back to the mission of the Church?" Well I'm glad you asked. When you are fellowshiping with your brother or sister you allow the lost to see the support and safety you have in Christ. This may result in an opportunity to share your testimony with them about the love, grace, and mercy that God has shown you throughout your life— with a view toward leading them to Christ.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN

INSIGHTS

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*"The Church that Exalts the Savior, Equips the Saint and Evangelizes the Sinner"*

## It's in the Word

Reverend Van C. Williams

Pastor

### *The Christian, the Power of Words, and Facebook*



<sup>35</sup> *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure*

*bringeth forth evil things.* <sup>36</sup> *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.* <sup>37</sup> *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:35-37).*

In recent years, our society has been introduced to many tools of communication via the internet. We have been infiltrated and bombarded by *Black Planet*, *Myspace*, *Twitter* and now *Facebook*. It seems that just about everyone I know would send e-mails inviting me to join one of these networks. For quite some time I had been reluctant to venture out and join any of these networks. Then, it was really amazing, when I found out that pastors whom I greatly respect have *Facebook* profiles of their own. So about a month ago, I finally decided to overcome my reluctance and joined *Facebook*.

I found *Facebook* to be an exciting network. Since joining, I have had the welcomed opportunity to reconnect to distant family members, former classmates and old friends. There also came the opportunity to stay connected and communicate with so many others almost effortlessly. People are allowed to promote events, share news, whether it is good or bad, and show their support for what they believe in. As God would have it, I also began to see that *Facebook* can be used as a tool for performing ministry and promoting the Kingdom of God. Oh, by the way, I also found that

*Facebook*, if you are not careful, can become addictive. It confirms one thing for certain and that is we are truly living in the Information Age.

I welcomed the ability to share information with others who have profiles on *Facebook*. There are those who share humor. There are those who discuss current events that affect all of us. There are those who challenge us to consider our walk with the Lord on a daily basis. There are those who give words of encouragement. And then, I found that there are those who believe in speaking their minds. It is one thing to be openly opinionated, but do we have the right to fully express ourselves without any concern as to the possible consequences.

*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain (James 1:26).*

I began to find the use of profanity on *Facebook*. Well, when it comes to those who are of the world, you would like to expect better, but you don't. However, when it comes to those who are professed Christians, you do expect better. You expect the restraint from using profanity. You would expect the avoidance of confusion, malice and negativity. You would expect that Christians would remember that what we say and write is a reflection to the world of who we are in God.

*I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me (Psalm 39:1).*

Some have even used *Facebook* as a vessel through which to ridicule and defame the reputations of others. And maybe there should be some consideration in regards to making false statements or false accusations about someone. When it is spoken, it

is slander. However, when it is written (which means it's easy to document), it is called libel, for which you can be sued.

*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn (Isaiah 54:17a).*

There should also be consideration given by those who serve in positions of leadership in the church. When we communicate on *Facebook* are we truly upholding our responsibility of setting an example for others to follow? Will your postings cause someone to ask whether or not you are truly walking within the expectation of your calling? Are you allowing for others to legitimately question whether or not you are truly the person that you profess to be? Are you presenting yourself in such a way that it could be questioned as to whether God is really pleased with your communications? Yes, I do question what I have seen posted by some so-called, seemingly self-appointed leaders, but don't lose sight of the fact that as members of the laity or non-leaders that you are still accountable unto God. Oftentimes, we allow others to believe that as a leader God places a greater expectation upon you. Let's not be confused. Leaders have greater responsibilities placed upon them, but we are all called to the same high standard of Christian living.

*Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile (Psalm 34:13).*

*The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness (Proverbs 10:31-32).*

*Continued on page 4 FACEBOOK*

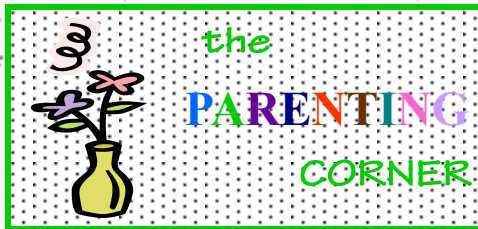


# Youth & Teen Worship Experience!

*"I am a young person and its hard sometimes to express how I feel. I have been through a lot of things in my life and I feel as if no one understands or listens. Now, being in high school, my largest worry has been graduation and what happens next. I have seen most of my friends drop off into things that will kill them if they don't stop. People ask me why I have changed, I tell them that after the loss of a family member due to violence, that was a wake up call that I have to stop some things I am doing. I started going to bible study at Second Baptist Church, and that was a first. I still do not understand the bible but after going to class, I have seen that people around me are going through the same thing. I feel that if God can help them, hopefully he can help me. That's about all I can say, I am glad things are changing in my life."*  
(Submitted by a youth in the Second Baptist Church Youth and Teen Wednesday Night Bible Class)

Minister Kevin D. Sanders, *Youth Minister*  
Youth & Teen Minister-Second Baptist Church-Ypsilanti  
Second Baptist Church: [www.sbcypsi.org](http://www.sbcypsi.org)  
MVOG Ministries: [www.mvogministries.com](http://www.mvogministries.com)

One day at the breakfast table, I closed my eyes and said my blessing silently. When I opened my eyes, my son (four years old at the time) had his eyes shut tight. When he opened them I asked him what he was doing. His response was, "I'm saying my prayers." I then asked him what he said while his eyes were closed. He replied, "Nothing, I just closed my eyes like you do..."



.....*Sister Angela Verges*

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7)

A parent's job is one in which you can't quit, you will never be fired, and a retirement plan doesn't exist. Yet we want to do the best job possible. This can sometimes be a challenge when our children are not cooperating. Although we may be tested quite often, we have to remember to be anxious for nothing. Of course this is easier said than done.

As I reflect on one particular stressful week with the kids, I can now laugh about it. It was a long week of driving kids to practices, dealing with homework struggles, and resolving sibling disputes. By the end of the week I looked like Moses after returning from Mt. Sinai. My hair had turned white (only around the edges) and I had two tablets. My tablets were Tylenol, for the stress headache.

I wanted to resign from my position of "Mom," but instead I called on God. Then I called my mama, "Please come and get one of your grandchildren. You don't have to take both of them, but at least take one." We've all learned that when you pray, you have to be patient and wait for an answer. But I thought that while I was waiting, it would be a good idea for my mama to take one of the kids.

It is truly a blessing to have family (church family included) and friends with whom to share your experiences. The same thing you may be going through, someone else has already been there.

We have to keep in mind that children are not always defiant (including mine); they have bad days just as adults. We just have to stay "prayed up" and one step ahead of them. Prayer truly is the answer. Be anxious for nothing.

God's  
Amazing  
GRACE  
brought me this far...

By

Trustee David E. Rutledge

Even if I possessed all the accumulated wisdom of the great theologians past and present, I still don't believe that I could completely comprehend the magnitude of God's divine love and protection that he freely bestows upon us. All of us are undeserving recipients of his amazing grace, because as the Apostle Paul reminds us, "... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Nevertheless, we daily enjoy and often take for granted the bounty of his grace.

In my life and the life of my family members, there are countless examples of God's amazing grace. Trying to list them would be an exercise in futility. However, I have wondered (and maybe you have also) about times that my life may have been spared for no other reason than God's amazing grace. There was an incident that I will share that was too dramatic to ever forget, and is undoubtedly the reason that I am alive today.

In describing his boxing prowess, Muhammad Ali said that he could "float like a butterfly and sting like a bee". The metaphors are appropriate because in the boxing ring Ali was light on his feet; and like a bee's sting, his punches could inflict great pain to his opponents. The sting of a bee is not only painful, it can be lethal. According to the medical resource, WebMD, about 100 people die in this country annually from bee stings to the mouth and throat.

Several years ago, my partner and I were enjoying a wonderful fall afternoon of competitive golf. The leaves were starting to turn; the temperature was comfortable with not much of a breeze. Everything was perfect except my golf game. We had finished 9 holes of play and stopped at the club house for refreshments. I purchased a can of pop before proceeding to the next tee. On hole #10, I hit my drive into the ruff on the far left side of the fairway. My partner hit his in the trees on the extreme right side. Since I was driving our cart, I dropped him off at his ball and proceeded to the other side of the fairway to my ball. I hit an amazing second shot which to my surprise landed on the green. Feeling good about the shot, I grabbed my can of pop from the cart. Just as I was bringing the can to my mouth for a big gulp, I heard a voice say, "BLOW IN THE CAN"! Instinctively, I blew in the can's opening and a bee flew out. I was so startled and thankful for the warning, because surely I would have been stung in the mouth or throat. Since nobody else was around, I assumed that my partner had spoken the warning. I hurriedly drove the cart to the opposite side of the fairway and proceeded to profusely thank him for saving my life. After listening to me describe what happened, he gave me this real strange and worried look as if he thought I was starting to lose touch with reality. Then he told me that not only did he not yell anything to me, he didn't even see me with the pop in my hand.

I spent the rest of the day re-living those moments from the time I picked up the pop to the moment I heard "the voice". I firmly believe that I heard God's voice that day, and because of his "AMAZING GRACE", my life was allowed to continue a little while longer.

**Facebook** is a tool. When a tool is properly used, it can be quite beneficial and bring about a great deal of good. However, when a tool is used improperly, it can lose its value and bring about a great deal of harm. So *Facebook* is neither good nor bad. What determines the outcome is the motive of the one who is the user of the tool.

*Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue* (Psalm 52:2-4).

So then, how are you using this tool? What are your intentions when you log on? Do you ever give consideration as to how others might be affected by what you post? Are you utilizing *Facebook* as a tool with good intentions? Are you using it with the true purpose of its design in mind? Or are you allowing Satan to use you as you place your postings?

Are you being decisively destructive in placing very calculated, malicious postings. Are you using it for good and to be a blessing to others. Or are you using it as a tool of Satan to sow seeds of discord? – The choice is yours!

*Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: <sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be* (James 3:5-10).

— VCW



### “Leadership of Men in the Church”

This article is being composed after the men of SBC had an

opportunity to share in a number of Christ centered activities as a result of Men’s Day. I would like to begin by posing a question. Are the male leaders in the church, standing our ground in **God’s word**?

Christ sent His Church out to be the “salt of the earth” and the “light of the world”. But the opposite seems to be happening all over America. Are we allowing culture to change the Church?

- **Christian divorce** rates have surpassed the general public! Christians have fallen for the culture’s mantra that **personal fulfillment** is more important than marriage vows.
- “God wants me **happy**” has replaced “God wants me to be **obedient** and **faithful** to His Word”.
- Much that passes for “**worship**” in contemporary churches would be difficult to distinguish from a **secular rock concert!**
- The oxymoron called the **Christian Feminist** movement is firmly entrenched in many denominations and thousands of churches.
- **Homosexuality** is routinely accepted in a growing number of American churches.
- Christians watch any and all **movies and TV** shows, no matter how rotten.
- Standards of **modesty** in clothing have been patterned after what our **culture** believes, not after the Word of God.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. [2] Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

James 4:4 You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

In short, while we are interacting with the world in carrying out the GREAT COMMISSION (Matt.28:19, 20), the Church will either change the culture, or the culture will change the Church. **BROTHERS of SBC** I challenge **you** to close ranks and stand our ground in **God’s word** that the latter may perish...

*God’s blessings,*

*Bro. George Brown*

### “God Can Strengthen Our Women in His Service and Our Families by Their Example”

## Our Strength

God in his omnipotent state of being (Ps. 147:5) can strengthen and use whomever he chooses to use in his service. When we as Christian women open the door and allow God’s life changing power to enter in, step by step and moment by moment our strength and confidence will be enhanced and aide those we come in contact with in several ways.

**Prayer Strengthens:** Through prayer God strengthens us to be strong Christian women.

**Trust Strengthens:** God expects us to trust Him. Failure to trust Him was in essence the first sin (Gen. 3:1-7) when we trust in Him we become stronger in our faith.

**Wisdom Strengthens:** In days of old the elderly women had to understand their roles and responsibilities and live unto Christ. They were examples to the younger women.

Their Christian appearance and conversation was an indication of their Christ-like inner beauty. The Spirit of Christ in us should be a help to other women.

**Studying Strengthens:** To show yourself approved.

**Family Strengthens:** God has ordained the family as the foundational institution for human society, and we should let our light shine by coming together as a family in God’s house. Encouraging each other and praying for one another

### “The Family That Prays Together Stays Together”

*Trustee Joyce Jordan*

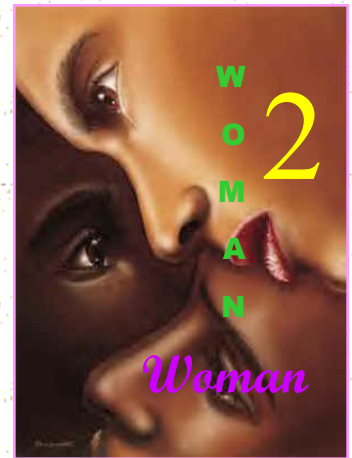
#### The Orator...

“Are you looking forward to the November elections when, once again we will be subjected to the BLOVIATIONS of deceptive politicians exploiting to our ONEIRIC delusions of tax reductions?” *Robert Baker*

“One person can do something, Two people can do more, but a group of people working together who are EMPOWERED by God can do much, much more.” *Michelle K. Williams*

“Lagerfeld’s strongly conceived and modern designs throughout his incumbency ne’er compromised the supple MULIEBRITY for which Chlo was renowned.”

“Twain declared that people arrive at their religion and politics “Second-hand and without examination,” and proclaimed himself a MUGWUMP and anti-Imperialist.”



Whether it's football season, soccer, baseball or basketball, active kids seem to keep parents going. Our travel basketball season is not even half over and it's time to begin thinking about football. I recently received an e-mail reminder about signing up for the junior football league.

As I reflected upon the adventures of last season here is what I recalled: I had to wash girdles that weren't mine, cups that I couldn't drink from and make sure there was always room in the trunk of the car for shoulder pads. Let's not forget the scented air fresheners kept on hand for the ride home after an intense practice.

My routine consists of hanging out at gyms, sitting in stadium chairs and yelling at the top of my lungs for our team. The sad reality is that after being in the stands for several years, I still don't understand everything that is going on in the game. In basketball, the coach yells, "set a pick" or "box out." I yell, "Let's go red."

My son explained *boxing out* to me. He said "It's when you put your butt on the other guys' hip and put your hands up so he can't get the rebound. It's almost like doing jumping jacks, but your elbows are bent." The bright light came on and I had a new understanding.

As for football, my learning process continues. I understand that my son the "wide receiver" catches the ball and runs like a gazelle across the field. I even understand that as "safety" he is the last line of defense to keep his opponent from scoring a touch down. As for my son who plays "corner back/line backer," I am still in the slow lane of understanding.

His shoulders slump and his eyes roll to the top of his head as he tries to explain his position. "Mom, I told you, I cover the wide receiver and the tight end." He sounded exasperated, but I smiled. I thought to myself, now he sees how I feel when I have to tell him something over and over again.

At the end of the tunnel, there is light. I enjoy being an active spectator at the kids' sporting events. I'm their biggest cheerleader, although sometimes they wish I wasn't. They tire of hearing me echo the words of the cheerleaders. "We're number one, not two, not three, not four. We're gonna' win, not loose, not tie the score. We're number one!"

Whether it's on the field or on the court, the kids are learning about sportsmanship and how they should behave as a representative of a team. Since they are learning life lessons through sports, I will keep washing girdles (including mine), jock straps, jersey's and under armor. But only until I teach them how to wash without using the entire container of detergent.

It's time to come clean...my confession...even if I never learn all of the calls and plays of the sports the kids play, I will continue to sign them up. It's all about the experience for them and exposure to a variety of opportunities.

## Freedom...

Minister Charlie M. Carter, Jr.

*Faith* is a response of the whole person to the gospel, a response of the mind, emotions, and will that manifests itself in speech and action. This is not to say that Paul believed salvation was in any way earned, gained, or merited by a particular behavior. His brief statement to the Romans summed up his view: "to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness" (4:5). But faith is not passive acknowledgment of the truth of the gospel; it is active response to that truth. As he told the Romans, "thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (6:17-18).

Some Christians feel that Christ dying on the cross, Him forgiving them of sins, and them professing a hope in Christ gives them freedom to roam recklessly through life; claiming faith and obedience to God. Yet, having false assurance and seeming endurance that Christ is with them. Faith is not passive acknowledgment of the truth of the gospel! Faith and obedience is an active response to that truth. Christ is not following us in our ways and instructions. Rather, the true believers are followers of Christ for kingdom building. Following Him may require sacrifices of one's own desires. In the face of such sacrifice a person may desire to preserve him/herself by denying Jesus, but the tragic result would be spiritual destruction: condemnation for sin.

The first chapter of James insists that we become doers of the Word and not mere hearers, because only hearing the Word is self-delusion and lacks the blessing of God (v. 22-25). In fact, failure to live out one's religious convictions is plainly a matter of self-deception and such religion is worthless, no matter how much the person may think he or she is religious (v. 26).

Our inheritance in Christ is not what we proclaim it to be, but what God has given it to be—His Son.

# "I Love You...Always..."

Your love always has been and always will be, life's greatest gift to me! When God sent His Son to die for our sins, that was his greatest gift to us. Then, Jesus, God's Son, gave me you. That was his greatest gift to me. He blessed, you and I to give this world Shaun (Jennifer), Shannon (Mario), Autumn, Michelle, Caleb, Jada, Marcus, Leilani, Mario, Lia and Amari...Life's greatest gift continues to give...

"Families Are Forever"

*Minister C M and Mrs. Coleen Carter, Jr.*

**MARRIAGE (WAS) IS GOD'S IDEA**  
*(A Christian Wife's Perspective)*  
 By Sister Barbara James, Deaconess


When we enter into the sanctity of marriage, what are we really promising?

God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper who is right for him and the two will become one body." (Gen. 2:18, 24 NCV--Everyday Study Edition). Marriage is ordained of God and is one of the greatest institutions in existence. He created each of us for a specific purpose. Namely, the husband is to love and lead and the wife is to love and follow his leadership. However, our ego leads us to misunderstand submissiveness. Guess what? When we seek to fully understand our role as a Christian wife, we will recognize that submitting does not mean that the wife loses her identity or is of lesser value than her husband. Our roles are different. We are companions—not competitors! *Liberated through Submission: God's Design for Freedom in All Relationships* indicates that submission doesn't tear down relationships; it builds them up and sets people free.

A Christian wife prays for her husband, does him good all the days of her life, communicates honestly and freely with him, is forgiving, and helps him to be the man God wants him to be. It is easy to follow your husband when he loves you and does as God has intended. It is a joy being my husband's helpmate.

*"A woman's heart should be so close to God that a man has to seek God in order to find it"...*

**Marriage**



Happy      Ever After

Man's emotions are not a reliable gauge upon which to establish a marriage relationship. We must know in the Spirit that it is God's will. It is much better to marry for character than for emotion. Emotions fluctuate; character doesn't. Emotions are in the flesh, and unless the carnal mind has been renewed, Satan can give us emotions or feelings of love for someone of his choosing.

**Smile! LAUGH! Reír! Have a good day!**



*Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:*

**The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.**

\*

**The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'  
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'**

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

**Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.**

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

\*

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

**For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.**

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

**A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.**

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice .

**Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.**

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

**Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.**

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

**Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.**

**\* The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.**

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

**Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.**

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

**Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.**

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

**Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.**

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'