

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

October 8, 2023

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UNOPENED LOVE LETTERS

By Larry Fitzgerald, Abilene, TX

“How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,” is perhaps one of the best known lines of poetry ever written. But do you know the story of the creator of those words?

Elizabeth Barrett was a poet who lived many years with her parents. Her father was bizarre. He had forbidden all twelve of his sons and daughters to wed.

Elizabeth met another poet by the name of Robert Browning. They corresponded and met in secret. When Robert approached Edward about marrying Elizabeth, he was denied and ordered out of the house—never to return.

Robert’s love was strong so the couple eloped. Edward Barrett disowned his daughter. Elizabeth loved her parents and did everything she could to be reconciled with them. She wrote beautiful, expressive, endearing letters to them. She did this for ten years without response.

Finally, a package came from the Barretts. It was a happy moment for Elizabeth as she opened it. Had her dad finally forgiven her? No! Instead, in the box, she found all of her letters returned and unopened. Elizabeth was broken hearted!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning was a world famous poet and her letters of reconciliation have been called “masterpieces of literature”. But her parents never read them.

Likewise, Jesus has sent to mankind beautiful letters of reconciliation. He even died so that sinful people could have hope of everlasting life. It must break His heart that so many refuse to even read these letters of love!

Do you read your Bible? Or do you leave God’s love letters unopened?

“Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek Him with their whole heart” (Psalm 119:2)

**He has granted to us His precious
and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Butch and Jenny Womersley and family.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia and Ukraine

Cipolla family

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Ruth Banks; now at home

Joe and Donetta Daliessio; motorcycle accident.

Latin American Missions

Tracy Moran (Diane's niece); cancer, chemo

Ashley Cox (Wayne, Doris' niece); health

Trap Pond Camp

Laurel Ladies' Day

Those traveling; We know of Lanny and Karen, Jean

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm.

TRAP POND CAMP: Oct. 20-22. Planning Committee; Christian, Courtney, Dave, Daniel.

LADIES' DAY AT LAUREL OCT. 28. See Ginger for ways to help. We can all invite ladies and spread the word.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; Danny-8th; David-15th

Prayer; Vinny-8th; Christian-15th

Table; Dale-8th; Daniel-15th

Announcements/Closing prayer; Shawn-Oct.

Song Leader; David-8th; Troy-15th

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Men's Bible study (Philip's) 8:30 a.m.

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).