



THE

FORECASTER

FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Sanctity of Human Life

*For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in
my mother's womb.*

Psalm 139:13

January 21, 2018



On January 13, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation designating January 22nd as the first **National Sanctity of Human Life Day**. Churches around the United States continue to use this day to celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the many lives lost to abortion, and commit themselves to protecting human life at every stage. At Fairmount, we also use this day to recognize all the children born into our church family during the previous year and commit to praying for them and their families. To help protect human life, we will also be participating in the **Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Richmond's Baby Bottle Campaign**. Our goal is to raise \$3,000, which equals the PRC's operating costs for just one day. Impact Jerusalem invites you to pick up a bottle or two from the Worship Center lobby on Sunday morning, fill it up, and help us reach our goal. Filled bottles can be returned to the Worship Center lobby as well. ■

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By: Kevin Bartlett

When I was younger I saw a television show, I cannot remember if it was a game show or a variety show, but this guy was spinning plates on top of thin poles. He would run from pole to pole making sure the plates didn't slow down enough to fall and crash on the floor. That's sometimes how life feels, you're just trying to keep the plates spinning so your life, along with your dreams, doesn't shatter on the floor. And then something happens to remind you that your plates aren't the most important thing in this world. Or, as followers of Christ, they shouldn't be. Just recently my daily routine was interrupted with just such a reminder.

It was a short but busy four-day work week because of New Year's day; a week which also included a trip to the hospital for my mom to receive a pacemaker and an eye doctor appointment for myself late on Friday. It was after the visit to the eye doctor that my eyes really got opened, and not just by the dilation solution. I called back to the shop to see if everything was okay because, as it was past four thirty in the afternoon, I thought I just might head home instead of going back to work. But Jimmy, my brother, informed me that we had a couple of things to finish that parts had just arrived for. So I headed back to the shop. When I arrived I saw an elderly gentleman standing in the front office. I just naturally figured he was waiting for his vehicle to be finished so I didn't pay him much mind. I just wanted to get in and get done what needed to be finished so that my weekend could begin. Little did I realize that this frail looking gentleman would affect my evening in a powerful way.

The man was dressed for a fall day, thin wool jacket and what appeared to be

Love Your Neighbor

thin sweat pants. Problem was, this was not a fall day. There was about three inches of snow on the ground and it was twenty-two degrees outside. As I was walking by, Jimmy asked me to talk to the man for a minute while he made a phone call to a friend who happens to be a police officer, that's when I came to



understand what was going on. The man had approached one of our techs and asked for a ride to the store. He in turn sent him to the office, a move which may have saved the man's life. As I started talking to the man, I noticed he was shaking like he was having chills and he couldn't get his cell phone to work. He told me that he had been walking for hours and had no idea where he was. When he laid down his phone I took his hand in mine and was immediately frightened at how cold it was. By then Jimmy had reached our friend the police officer, and he had units in route. I ran out to my truck and retrieved a blanket that I keep in case of an emergency. In the fourteen years that I have had the blanket in the truck, this was the first time it was ever used for its intended purpose. We got him in a chair, covered him up, and poured him a cup of hot coffee to try and warm him as we waited for help to arrive.

The police and rescue squad arrived almost simultaneously and took control of the situation, trying to get the man's

name, searching his phone to find his family, and wrapping him in layers of blankets and warming devices. The police eventually reached his brother who said that the man had just days before been diagnosed with sundowner syndrome, where confusion sets in late in the day. He had wandered away from home as his brother's wife was making dinner and by the time she got her coat and boots and ran out to search for him, he was nowhere to be found. When the brother and his wife arrived to pick the man up, they were in tears wondering how a learned man, a retired college professor, could have his mind do this to him. After about an hour of checking him over medically and making sure he was good and warm, the EMTs let the couple take him home. All's well that ends well.

On the way home I couldn't get what our near frozen visitor kept saying, "I have been walking for hours and I am just so cold", along with his extremely cold and frail hands off my mind. I thought about all the people who, for whatever reason, are out in the cold on such frigid nights, those that are down on their luck as well as those who have to work in the extreme conditions that nature may bring, and I said a prayer for them as I was driving. I also thought about those who have been walking for hours, searching for a safe and warm place to rest and prayed for all of those who run shelters and programs like CARITAS. 1 John 3:18 says, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth." I would like to challenge each of you to take off the blinders that have each of us focused solely on controlling our spinning plates and truly see the world around us, looking for those that we can

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January 27 - February 3

United by compassion, CARITAS helps our most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of homelessness and addiction to reclaim their dignity. Over 185 participating congregations provide shelter, food, and necessities on a weekly basis to individuals and families in need of immediate assistance. Continuing in our mission to be community-minded and globally-focused, Fairmount will be hosting CARITAS from January 27 - February 3.

Volunteer Opportunities

- * **Donations:** Sign up through your Bible School Class to help with meals and donations of needed items. If you don't have a Bible School Class and would like to help, contact Meredith Holden at 350-4252.
- * **Lunch Items Needed:** Juice boxes/pouches - 96-120 boxes/pouches & individual fruits cups, applesauce, or pudding - 150 -175 cups. Please bring your donations to the main kitchen no earlier than January 21 and mark CARITAS on it.
- * **Overnight helpers** to assist our guests and sleep over from 6:30pm until 6:30am.
- * **Set up** on January 27 and **take down** February 3.
- * **Items to Borrow:** books, magazines, games, cards.
- * **Please Note:** We no longer collect quarters for the Laundromat since we now have a washer/dryer onsite.

Please contact Meredith Holden (350-4252) with any questions.

*For more information about the CARITAS program, visit their website at www.caritasva.org.
Most importantly, please be in prayer for this program and for those who are in need of this vital service.*

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show the love of Christ to in deed and truth and share the warmth that comes along with His Good News. Let's not let one more person be lost and chilled to the bone because we chose to do what is best for us instead of what may save the life, eternal as well as physical, of another of God's children. Mark 12:30-31 says, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." We are all neighbors, no matter how far apart or close together we live, no matter how different our skin colors or economic situations are, we are neighbors. And if we can come together in the strength of God's love to help one another, we can solve a lot of the tensions and troubles that are in this world today. ■



**December Giving
Campaign**

Final Results

**Goal: \$250,000
Total Given: \$273,420**

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!



**Holy Land Presentation
January 21st at 6pm in Rm. 132**

A group of Fairmount folks were blessed to spend some time in the Holy Land over the Christmas break. Join them to hear about their adventures and see photos from their trip. All are welcome!





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FORECASTER
 best viewed online @
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OUR CHURCH - January 14, 2018

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our newest members:

George & Daphne Masten transferred their memberships on January 10th.



Online Attendance

Beginning this week, you will notice a new addition to our weekly attendance records. Last year, we began streaming our 9:30 and 11:15 Sunday morning worship services using Facebook Live. This has become a popular option for those who are shut-in, home with an illness, or traveling out of town to still be able to connect in worship with Fairmount. Join our Facebook group - Fairmount Christian Church.

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

8:15 Traditional Worship: 125
 Children's Worship: 7
9:30 Cont. Worship: 486
 Children's Worship: 37
 Online: 120

11:00 Traditional Worship: 140
 Children's Worship: 87

11:15 Modern Worship: 278
 Online: 65

Total: 1,345

Bible School: 629

Budget Requirements: \$44,862

Budget Receipts: \$50,748

Sermon Series Continues This Sunday!



FAIRMOUNT CHRISTIAN CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rick Raines - Senior Minister
Chris Santasiere - Associate Minister
Mike Langley - Associate Minister
Tracy Thomas - Worship/Music Minister
Ryan Card - Interim Assoc. Worship Minister
Josh Smith - Interim Youth Minister
Ashley Sears - Children's Director
Amber Grubbs - Early Childhood Director
Brandon Woodard - Church Executive