

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

Preachers are supposed to quote the great theologians like C.S. Lewis, Frederick Buechner, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but I learned a deep theological principle about servanthood from that great western theologian, **Louis L'Amour**. Hey, I get my sermon material where I can! In the West, the stagecoach was a major form of transportation. Did you know that stagecoaches had three different kinds of tickets—first-class, second-class, and third class?

If you bought a first-class ticket that meant you could sit down, no matter what happened. If the stagecoach got stuck or a wheel came off or

the axle broke, the first class ticket holders remained seated at all times.

Second-class ticket holders could sit down until there was a problem. Then they had to get off, but stood in the shade and watched others fix the problem. When the problem was fixed they reboarded the stagecoach.

Those with third-class tickets could sit until there was a problem. When they got off, they had to help fix the problem. If the coach was stuck in the mud, third-class ticket holders had to

help get it unstuck. If the stagecoach had to be pushed up a hill, third-class holders had to push. If the wheel broke, third-class ticket holders had to be a human jack and hold up the stagecoach so the wheel could be replaced.

Think about it! **There's a sermon in there someplace.** Let me reach in and try to pull it out. This is exactly how some people relate to the church. Some think they have a **first-class ticket**. Let's call them "**Sit in Saints**." They just sit there and expect to be served, to be fed, wait-

May Issue

Volume 6, Issue 5

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ed on, catered to. They usually wear a bib.

Some church members think they have second-class tickets. Let's call them "**On Saints**." They ride

A Lesson in Love

"What a jerk," I thought as I hung up the phone. Not a very spiritual reflection for a pastor, but that's the way I felt nonetheless. I was just concluding a counseling session and was trying desperately to prepare a Bible study for the evening service on "Love One Another" from John 13:34-35. It wasn't coming together.

The caller had identified himself as Ernest F. Thomas, "as in doubting Thomas," he told me. He was traveling between Oregon and Phoenix, the

45 year-old unbelieving son of a minister, needing--no, demanding--a motel room due to medical problems. Because I couldn't listen to his story right then he rudely impugned my Christianity, as well as the faith of fifteen other ministers he allegedly had called. He was insulting, insistent, and, in spite of the 185 I.Q. he claimed, a real pain.

When he called back ten minutes later as we had agreed, I

can't say I was looking forward to talking to him. But God had been talking to me. Thinking of Ernest as a jerk had jolted me. The verse I had been studying was starting to come home. "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

How did Jesus love? He taught us to love those who mistreat us. If He hadn't practiced what He preached, I would have had no chance. "Greater love has no man than this, that a

man lay down his life for his friends," He told His disciples (John 15:13), yet He exceeded man's best by dying for His enemies (Romans 5:8). Jesus doesn't love on the basis of our worthiness.

Transients who chronically call churches for help are perplexing. Must a person be deserving for me to love him with practical help? No. God doesn't operate that way--He loves radically. So must we. "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

We must love the un-

Serving in May

Greeters:

- 6—Bettie Finken (A)
- 13—Dean & Sue Smethurst (A)
- 20—Vincent & Nola Girardot (A)
- 27—Charlene Dean (A)

Communion Ministry:

- 6—Larry Snavely
- 13—Jim & Pat McPeak

- 20—Brock Rohrer
- 27—Adam Perry

Prayer Warriors:

Jane Runyan & Erica McNamara

Welcome Center:

- 6—John & Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)

13—Lesley Shirkey (9)



- 2 Linda Hill
- 3 Gail Wiyrick
- 4 Dean Smethurst
- 6 Jane Perry
- 8 Dick Kuzmaul
- 10 Ron Brown, Brienne Hetrick
- 12 Kortney Hartman, Norma Lorentz
- 14 Megan Grimm, Carrie Moninger
- 15 Troy Hug, Leo Thomas
- 16 Presley Tonneas
- 20 Kayla Sanders, Kim Snavely

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 22 Jeremy Lohse, Mary Pinckley
- 23 McKenzie Reasor
- 25 Cole Day
- 26 Scott Hartman, Kamren Pelmear
- 28 Tonya Barnes, Jimmy Thornton, Jr.
- 29 Janet Leppelmeier

- 15 Doug & Vickie Grimm (25)
- 16 Jacob & MaKenzie Manges (3)
- 21 Joe & LuAnn Jerger (30)
- 25 Harm & Brienne Hetrick (16), Steve & Connie Tressler (50)



- 4 Larry & Jean Baumgartner (35)

Family News

The church family expresses her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ Mike Robson and family on the loss of Sue.
- ♥ The family of Beulah Hopkins.







Congratulations!

- ♥ Derrick & Megan Nixon on the birth of their son, Owen Daniel who was born Thursday, March 29th. He weighed in at 7# **12 oz. and was 19.75". He** has a big brother. Paternal grandparents are Dan & Deb Nixon.

- ♥ Alexandra Blinzler on her graduation from Northwest State.
- ♥ Alexa Brown on her graduation from Ohio State.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Craft Group	2 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	3 9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	4	5
6 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Larry's Life Group	7	8	9 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	10 9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	11	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast @ 4 Seasons
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 	14	15 12:45 Visitation Ministry	16 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Adult Bible Studies	17 9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers 10:30 Day Trip to Shipshewana	18 6:00 Jr/Sr High Game Night	19
20 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Larry's Life Group	21	22 11:45 Lunch Bunch	23 6:30 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	24 9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers	25	26
27 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	28 Church Offices Closed 	29	30	31 9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers		



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org



Connect with us!

Office Hours: Monday-
Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00
PM



Facts & Figures

	April 1	
Attendance SS NC		Worship 71/149
Offering		\$6,123.00
	April 8	
Attendance SS 42		Worship 48/137
Offering		\$4,346.00
	April 15	
Attendance SS 32		Worship 50/114
Offering		\$30,819.00
	April 22	
Attendance SS 26		Worship 49/102
Offering		\$3,211.00
Needed for Budget		\$5,828.86

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Lindsey Kaiser, Josh Severs (Germany), Josh Tonneas (TX)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Chuck Barnes, Arlene Boyer, Randy Boltinghouse, Brent, Tim Bight, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Tim Mavis, Aaron Nartker, Connie Pence, Mary Pinckley, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavelly, Ron Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman, Al West,

Gloria Wright. Other Concerns: Jennifer Mavis, Brianna Lloyd, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, Asher Cravens, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Cunningham Family, Keller Gardner, Gene Nash, Ginny Suffel, Marilyn Lundy, Bob Lloyd, Josh Tonneas, Dan Yahraus, Kim Beek, Mary Jane Sweebe, Norma Stambaugh, Heather Kauffman, Merit Hahn, Mark Rhodes, *Shut Ins:* *Genesis:* Gloria Wright, *Hillside:* Floyd Puffenbarger, *Home:* Linda Lewis, Lena Luke;

The Commons of Providence Road: Barbara Hake.





along, then the call to serve goes out. They become spectators and stand on the sidelines watching others do the serving, content to be complacent, and often critical of what others are doing.

Then there are the third-class ticket holders. Let's call them "Serving Saints" (and thank God for them). They get off, and they push. They serve. They give their time and their money in service. They do whatever it takes to get the job done.

What kind of ticket are you holding—"Sit in Saints," "Spectator Saints," or "Serving Saints"?

(from *Voices from the Hill*)

Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly



derserving. Even Christians can be hard to love. Jesus' own disciples were incredibly self-centered sometimes. The miracle of love is that it continues--in spite of weaknesses, anger, sins, "blind sides," and grating habits. That quality of love, Jesus said, will be the sign to outsiders that we are His disciples. In our love they must be able to glimpse His surpassing love.

Yes, I helped Ernest F. Thomas get a room that night. But I learned a vital lesson as well: God loves jerks and so must I.

Article by Ralph F Wilson, Joyful Heart Renewal Ministries.

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Continually overcoming,

Tim Calvin

Thanks, Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.

