

March 2010 Volume 11, Issue 3

Hello from Debbie...

First a howling blizzard woke us,
Then the rain came down to soak us,
And now before the eye can focus -
Crocus.

~Lilja Rogers



Myers Singles Mission Statement

The Myers Singles Group is a Christian community of individuals on the singles journey that provides opportunities to share life experiences, mutual support, and personal growth in a loving and caring atmosphere.

Happy March Birthday!



Do you think you can be **lonely and happy?**

As single people, we often put conditions on our happiness. We say, "When I get married, then I'll be happy" or "When I have children, then I'll be happy," or "When I have a nice family, a comfortable home, and a fulfilling, high-paying job, then I'll be happy."

We make the absence of loneliness one of the conditions of our happiness too. We assume that we can't be happy until everything is perfect in our life, which means no more loneliness.

But there's a danger for all of us when we put conditions on our happiness. We slip into the trap of postponing our life. Marriage doesn't guarantee an end to loneliness. Millions of married people are lonely too, still looking for a level of understanding and acceptance their spouse doesn't give them.

The ugly truth is that loneliness is an inescapable part of the human condition, as even Jesus found out. He was the most well-adjusted person who ever lived, yet he knew times of deep loneliness too.

If you accept the truth that loneliness is unavoidable, what can you do about it? I think you can decide how big a role you're willing to let loneliness play in your life. You can refuse to let it dominate your existence. That's a daring approach. If you take a stand that bold,

you'll only be able to achieve it if you rely on the Holy Spirit for help. None of us turns to the Holy Spirit as often as we should. We forget that he's the real presence of Christ on earth, living within us to give encouragement and guidance.

When you invite the Holy Spirit to supervise your attitude, you can become a happy person who knows occasional times of loneliness, instead of a lonely person who knows occasional times of happiness. That's not a play on words. It's a real, achievable goal.

To be dominated by happiness instead of loneliness, you have to admit that the calendar is turning on you. You have to see that every day spent feeling lonely and miserable is a day you can never get back. The older I get, the more I realize that every moment is precious. Once they're gone, they're gone. You can't allow anything or anyone to steal them from you through the temptation of loneliness.

When you give in to loneliness and pay it undue attention, you're giving loneliness too much control. One way to keep loneliness in check is to refuse to label yourself as a victim. When you interpret every adversity as a personal insult toward you, your pessimistic outlook becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Instead, recognize that bad things happen to *everybody*, but

you make the choice whether you'll become bitter over them.

I believe that though I might want my prayer to God to be happiness, I should have been asking God for *courage*. That's what I need, and I believe that's what *all* singles need. We need courage to overcome our fear of rejection. We need courage to reach out to other people. And most importantly, we need courage to recognize that we *do* have the choice to assign loneliness to a minor, infrequent role in our life.

Each day I try to be a happy person who knows occasional times of loneliness. I do not allow loneliness to rule my life. I wish I could take credit for this turnaround, but the heavy lifting was done by the Holy Spirit. Our happiness and confidence are directly proportional to the degree that we singles surrender our life to God. When you do that, you *can* know joy and contentment, limiting loneliness to the insignificant role it deserves.

Invite a friend to come with you this month – it will help you and your friend -- and may help you both fight off the loneliness that may be creeping into your life.

Debbie

May your blessings outnumber
The shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.

~Irish Blessing

March Meetings...

Myers Singles meet each Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the church unless otherwise stated.

Myers Sunday School Class meets from 9:30-10:15 in the choir loft (at the front of the Sanctuary).

The current series we are using is titled: *Lord I have sinned but I have several excellent excuses*. It is an open discussion class and very relaxed atmosphere.

Mar 2 – ‘Life’s Healing Choices’ – Debbie Brown facilitates this session.

Mar 9 – Come to Myers at 6:30 for this week’s session of **‘Life’s Healing Choices’** (Fred Rudder facilitates) and then **LEO!** at O’Charley’s afterwards.

Mar 16 – Planning Session at 5:30. Bring a bag supper and your ideas!

Regular meeting follows at 6:30 with Beverly Huddle leading this week’s **‘Life’s**

Healing Choices’.

Mar 23 – Open Forum - Dan Seufert leads our open forum discussion. Always interesting!

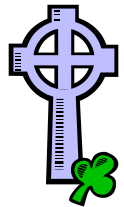
Mar 30 – ‘Life’s Healing Choices’ – Debbie Brown facilitates this session.

*****A NEW HOME FOR MYERS SINGLES!*****

Our meetings are now in the **New Life Classroom**. Come in the back, down one flight of stairs, turn

left, and our new room is the first classroom on the left. We think you’ll like it!

He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 1:6



Area Happenings...

Singles Bible Study at First Baptist Church in Lincolnton is Thursday, Mar 11. Supper at 7:00; Bible study follows in the Family Life Center. Come enjoy Christian singles fellowship.

Bethlehem Baptist – Texas Two Step class on Mondays, 7 – 8:00, at the old campus. For info, see Fred Rudder or call him at 704.689.5238.

Fraley Singles Connection – at Fraley Baptist Church. Call Sandy de Weese at 704.263.2171 for info.

Fresh Start Widows Group at the Gaston County Recreation Center - Call for more info at 704.922.2170.

Café Phoenix – First Baptist in Shelby on third Fridays at 6:30.

Kings Mountain - Living History Interpreters will recreate an 18th Century backcountry encampment, demonstrate weapons, and tell the story of the Battle of Kings Mountain. Mar 27 – 28. Exit 2 off I-85 South.

Gastonia Adult Rec Center – The Star Dusters perform on Saturday, March 27. Dance is 7:00 – 10:00 and cost is \$5.00.

Saturday Evening Social Dances - First Saturday of

each month. Dances begin at 7:00 and admission is \$5.00.

Gaston Library - Two reading and discussions: Sat, Mar 6 is ‘Requiem by Fire’ with author Wayne Caldwell; and Sat, Mar 27 is ‘Paternity’ (poetry collection) with author Scott Owens. Both at 2:00. Free...

Music at the Depot – Winter Acoustic Series, Sponsored by the Gaston County Museum. **Rebecca Rippy** plays on Mar 12 at 6:30. 205 W Main St, Dallas - Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$13 at door. For more info, call 704.922.7681, ext 105.

Square Dancing Lessons – on Fridays at First United Methodist Church, 8:00. Call 704.864.3820 for info.

March 4, 5, 6 – Belmont

Abbey - Abbey Players perform **‘Of Mice and Men’** by John Steinbeck, The Haid Theatre, at 8:00. Call 704.461.6787 for info.

Charlotte – St Patrick’s Day Parade and Charlotte Goes Green Festival – Irish music, dancers, bagpipes, food and vendors. S. Tryon St. between 1st & 3rd Streets. Festival 10 – 6:30. Parade at 11:00. Free....

NarroWay Productions - The 4th Cross – ‘Four men were to be crucified that day in Jerusalem. Only three crosses were raised. This is the story of The Fourth Cross.’ Our own Debbie Gregory is in the cast! March 27 at 12:00, cost is \$29.70 which includes the play and lunch. See Fred Pasour by March 16 if you’d like to go.



SPRING
Begins March 20!

Singles Alive of Gaston County – Please see Don Haynes if you paid the \$15 fee. The price has been reduced and he has a refund for you.

When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!

When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.

- Isaiah 43:2 NLT

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins March 14