

February has always held a special place in my heart. My "G.G.," otherwise known as Mammaw Carrie (she was my dad's mom), was born on Valentine's Day. It's so appropriate too, as I can hardly think of a person I have personally known that loved God and others like she did. I look so forward to being reunited with her in eternity. Another reason February is so dear to me is the special importance that February 15<sup>th</sup> has in my life. February 15, 2012 will mark the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of my first date with my wife Sherry. Yeah! We celebrated February 15<sup>th</sup> while we were dating like it was a holiday. I remember that day in 1991 very well. It was Cumberland College's only formal event for the students. Back then, it was a huge deal, like the collegiate version of a prom. My roommate had kind of set us up, and the girl he was dating was one of Sherry's best friends. So my roomie and I gussied up enough money to actually rent tuxes. I remember being so nervous yet excited on that day. We actually had some snow and ice hit Williamsburg that week, so I can remember laughing a lot as we tried to walk on campus in our slick dress shoes. Little did I know that THAT day was actually the beginning of an amazing, life-long journey of love that would bless me, challenge me, teach me, and grow me in ways I would have never dreamed of.

I am so thankful that God has given me the gift that is Sherry Renee Roy Clark. But what I have learned in these past 21 years is that the capacity to love and to love the right way doesn't come from those warm-fuzzies and heart-melting feelings I had back in 1991. It comes from the author and originator of love: God. We see this in 1 John 4:7-12...

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

It is actually God's love that sustains me and makes me a better husband, father, minister, and friend. It's those times when I get out of touch and out of contact with my Savior that my love capacity and quotient begin to waver. If I want to live a life of true love, I need to cling tightly every day to the one who IS love: God! How about you? Are you living a life filled with love? God makes it possible. Draw near to Him now. Cling to Him daily. Be filled with Him continually. And he will fill you beyond overflowing with a life-changing love that will last forever and ever!

With love from your pastor,

*Bill Clark*



If you know a child hurting because of divorce, bring them to DivorceCare for Kids, a special place for kids ages 5-12 to find help and healing. At our weekly DC4K group, kids make friends with other kids who understand what it feels like when parents get divorced. A new session of classes start February 6<sup>th</sup> and will be help on Monday nights. Call Melissa Willis for information at 486-9697. This program is open to the public please share this information with those who need it.

### On the Calendar For February

- 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Adult Valentine Banquet
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jon Burdette's 1 year at The Grove anniversary
- 20<sup>th</sup> President's Day  
Offices & FLC are closed



### Our Weekly Schedule

#### Sunday

**8:30 a.m.**

Early Bird Sunday School – Various adult ages

**9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

Various Sunday school classes and Worship for all ages

#### Monday

**6:30 p.m.**

G.R.O.W.

#### Wednesday

**6:00 p.m.**

Prayer Meeting

**6:30 p.m.**

Celebration Choir

Discipleship Classes

Youth Plunge – in homes

Beyond – for children

Filling Station – all adult ages

#### Thursday

**11:00 a.m.**

Senior Adult Service

In addition to these regularly scheduled programs, there are various Life Groups that meet throughout the Northern Kentucky area in homes. A list of homes, hosts, and meeting times can be obtained through Bill Clark at 356-3162 ext. 21.



## Senior Adults



Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> is your annual Valentine Banquet. All adults, ages 55 years young and older, are invited to attend. Cost for the Fried Chicken dinner is **FREE**, but we do need you to sign up at the Welcome Center or by calling the church offices so we can give our caterer a count. The dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall, we hope you will join us for a fantastic evening of "Let's Make a Deal".



Hickory Grove Baptist Church  
11969 Taylor Mill Road  
Independence, KY 41051  
859-356-3162  
[www.hickorygrove.net](http://www.hickorygrove.net)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Permit No. 7  
Independence, KY 41051

## *Helping Hands Ministry Update...*

The Helping Hands Ministry here at The Grove is hopping! Lots of families have been helped with your food, clothing, and financial donations. We are always willing to take all clothing donations, but at this time we are in need of boy and girl teen clothing. If you have a young man or woman in the house that has out grown their clothes, please take a moment to bag those up and drop them off here at the church, just mark the bags "Helping Hands". Also, if you took one of the refillable Kroger cards that benefits the Helping Hands Ministry, please remember to use it. If you didn't get one, but would like to have one, please contact Dianna Noyes and she will be able to get you one. The cards are an easy and profitable fundraiser for this ministry; the money is used to help many families in our church and community.

## College and Career at The Grove



On Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> a new class for the College and Career age young adults will be starting. The class will begin during the second hour at 11:15 a.m. (later start time due to some attendees being part of the music ministry), and meet in one of the rooms off of the Fellowship Hall. This class is designed for any young adult in college, working, single, engaged, or married with no children. If you fit that category, then join us as we kick off our first meeting by beginning the study, "Not a Fan, but a Follower" led by Blake Carter.

## *Thank you...*

During my stay in St. Elizabeth for back surgery, I wish to thank our Hickory Grove Life Group family; Bro. Bill & Sherry Risher, Rick & Karen Carter, Don & Jackie Bishop, Daryl & Lauren Moe, Linda & Terry Jones and friend Bill & Shirley Collins. I also would like to thank Bro. Bill Clark, Bill Risher, and Bro. Charley for their visits and prayers. I also want to thank Bones & Mary McKinley, Don & Donna McKinley & Janice Grubbs for their visits. I give thanks for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and all the prayers from my Christian friends, but most of all the healing power of my Savior, Jesus.

May God bless,  
Ann Garrett



Bill and Sherry Risher will begin a new session of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University! The preview night will be February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and then regular weekly sessions will begin on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being part of this financial course, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of main church office or at the Welcome Center. Cost for the kit that goes along with the class is \$98. If you have any questions about the class please contact Bill Risher at 356-3162 ext. 13.