

Hoagies with the Haters

“Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, ‘Leave this place and go somewhere else.’” (Luke 13:31)

“One Sabbath... Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee.” (Luke 14:1)

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” (Psalm 23:5)

How perpetually popular is the petty “I’m better than you” attitude! It’s always in fashion. With a fierce determination Jesus lived above that fashion every day. His clear-eyed view held that we are all sinners who need mercy. If you live by the unmerciful view that people aren’t good like you are (oddly the unmerciful believe they are exempt), then you will not receive mercy from God. If, however, you show mercy and forgive, you yourself will be forgiven.

Think about the people you most disagree with. Think of a room full of people you have badmouthed. Consider a get-together where all “those kind of people” are hanging out. Would you join them to share a meal? Not some formal event that mixes people, but hanging at the house and having hoagies with the haters? Nope? Jesus did.

In chapter after chapter, the Pharisees oppose Jesus. They watch his every move with malice. They hang on his every word in order to twist it and use against him. They set traps to publicly embarrass and discredit him. And it’s shocking to note that Jesus would go and eat with the Pharisees in their homes. How different we are from Christ! When you judge the judges you become the judge. When you hate the haters you become the hater.

Jesus modeled a life that is deeper in love, higher in purpose and broader in fellowship than we are comfortable with. Some of those Pharisees turned and became his most devoted followers.

Mark

TODAY---Senior High Youth Group Parents

There is a quick senior high youth group ***PARENTS meeting in the teen room immediately following today's worship*** to plan for this year's activities. See Kristin Ceraso if you can't attend.

Save the Date: Winterfest dinner

Sunday, Sept. 24th @ 5:00. Please join us for an evening of food and fellowship. *Donations* will help our teens attend the Christian youth rally in Tennessee in February.

Children's Church Will Restart Sept. 17th

Haircuts for Missions: September 9th

Thank you so much to Howard and Donna for all

of their months of hard work on the **Education Workroom**. Howard has really used his talents for the LORD! Teachers, be sure to show your gratitude by using this space! It is for the blessing of our classes, so take what supplies you need for your class! You are welcome to continue to keep your classroom supplies in your room, but if you have extras or finished items please consider putting them in this Workroom to share with others. Just leave them in the special basket so they can be stored away.

Church family, be sure to pat Howard on the back! And when you are out buying school supplies, maybe toss an extra pack of something in your cart for our Ed. Department!

With joy and thanks— *Karen & Kristin*

Camp LADIES Retreat "Come Thirsty": Sept. 8-9.

Camp MEN'S Retreat: is Sept. 15-16, Friday evening into Saturday, at Camp Manatawny. **We are renting a van.** Sign-up on the bulletin board.