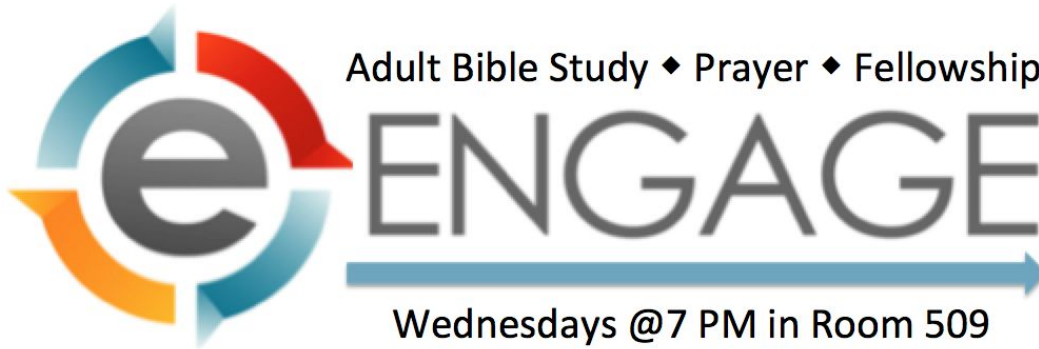


# from the Heart



**“The Christian and Politics”** has gotten off to a great start with great snacks and fellowship as well as lively discussion and prayer. Join us this week if you are able!

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**“Our church family has been so good to us.”**

That’s what RBC member Rodney Strickland said to me on Tuesday. We were at the funeral service for his mother, who had passed away a couple of days before. Rodney was referring to his SS CONNECT Group (meals), RBC deacons who had visited and stayed in touch, our ministry staff for visits and contacts, and church members who had contacted, prayed, brought food, and offered support.

I want to echo Rodney’s words and say “Thank You” Ridgecrest family, for loving and caring for each other in times of need. Oh, and by the way, I heard similar statements over the past few days from

church members Harry and Ellen Oakley (loss of Harry's sister), Rodney and Gail Hicks (loss of Gail's dad), and Richard and Paula Ray (loss of Richard's mom). It is not often that we have this many church related deaths in such a short period of time. As I attended funeral services and family visitations, RBC was there to Share and Care.

In these days of cultural drift, loving and caring for one another in Jesus' name is a bright and shining testimony of our faith. Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Thanks for your continued demonstrations of love to one another.

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This Sunday is Valentine's Day. We will be celebrating in morning worship by focusing on the Love of God towards us and our response to God's love by faith and obedience. We will conclude with a meaningful observance of the Lord's Supper. I'm looking forward to your presence as we worship Him together.

We will also be conducting our annual Valentines Banquet on Sunday evening. This is open to all! It is not a "Sweetheart Banquet", but rather a church-wide fellowship event. We have had a great response and I look forward to seeing you there. Once again, your full-time ministry staff will be presenting our latest version of "**Staff Infection**." I have been thinking that last year was about as good as it gets..... BUT, this year will be amazing and may be even better! See you there....

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## Worship Focus

for the next several weeks:

This Sunday: "The Love Of God"  
Observance of the Lord's Supper

Sunday, February 21: Service With A Smile - "The Attitude of Service"

Sundays, February 28 and March 6:  
The place and role of "Praise" in the life of the Christian

March 13, 20, & 27:  
The Events and Meaning of Easter

I can't wait for each of these Sundays to get here! I love to preach God's Word. I love to preach to you. I love to see His Word take hold in your lives. I love to see the difference that Jesus makes in your lives, families, communities, jobs, schools, and relationships.



Pastor Marc