

Thoughts from Tom

February is the shortest month of the year. But it is packed with special days and events. Sports fans across the nation focus on one football game taking place the first Sunday of the month: the Super Bowl. Some watch because they want to see the well-hyped and expensive commercials; each 30-second spot this year costs a record 3.5 million dollars. Others are interested in the halftime concert. And some people are actually fans of the Patriots or the Giants (Better luck next year, Lions and Packers!).

On February 5 a game of great importance will be played. Large men will face off across a line of scrimmage. A call is made, leather is slapped, and bodies collide and crash. A battle begins. For sixty minutes, men expend enormous energy and Herculean efforts to move a piece of pigskin up and down 100 yards of turf. In the end one team will emerge victorious.

A trophy is awarded; rings are presented; cash is given; glory is bestowed; advertising contracts are signed; and the Patriots or the Giants have bragging rights for a year.

Last year, TV ratings were smashed when a record 111 million people viewed the 2011 game. The National Football League has 32 teams, each with a roster of 53 players. But only a few will rise to the status of Super Bowl Champion. Do you know where the rest of the NFL will be on February 5? Watching the game. Desire, discipline, commitment, sacrifice, and character, applied day in and day out, separate a champion team from those with the worst records.

There is another crucial game being played. But, unlike the Super Bowl, this game is continuous, has eternal consequences, and involves everyone. No one sits in the stadium or watches from home. The game of life requires all Christians to rise to the level of play exhibited by a Super Bowl Champion. What separates a champion from a bush leaguer? Here's what the apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27:

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Will you choose to be a bush league Christian, or will you choose to become a Super Bowl Christian?

- 1) Do you have the desire?
- 2) Are you willing to discipline yourself?
- 3) Are you committed?
- 4) Are you willing to make the sacrifices?
- 5) Do you have the character?

Through Jesus Christ, let's look forward to obtaining the prize that counts for eternity!

The Northern Light

February 2012

First Church of Christ
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

Middle and High School Super Bowl Party



XBOX Kinect!
Wii!
Board Games!
Pizza!

February 5th, 6:00 p.m. at First Church of Christ
Bring a snack to share and your favorite game!

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Anniversaries

Tim & Annette Strader 2-6
Steve & Amy Goetz 2-18
Josh & Melissa Dowdy 2-24

Birthdays

Caleb Klier 2-1
Shari Robertson 2-1
Cody Anderson 2-2
Marion Rogers 2-2
Chuck Gustafson 2-3
Lois Malette 2-4
Sandra Long 2-7
Wendy Cook 2-8

Maria Gustafson 2-11
Vicki Hansen 2-12
Jill Eitrem 2-14
Levi Furr 2-17
Renie Smart 2-19
John Allison 2-19
Joe Davis 2-20
Megan Smart 2-20
Jordan Vert 2-21
Ross Vert 2-21
Bob Ferguson 2-21
Neva Perry 2-21
Breanna Vert 2-23

Kevin Volz 2-24
Hallie Shannon 2-24
Avery LaBonte 2-25
Patty Sauro 2-25
Bev Crumley 2-26
Patti Minta 2-28

Have we missed someone?
Please call the office and
update our information.

Announcements

**Potluck Lunch Baby Shower
for Martina Vollman—It's a Girl!**



**February 26, 2012
following 2nd service
FCOC Fellowship Hall**

Please bring a dish to pass.

**Adult Choir Practice for Resurrection Day
is at 4:30 p.m. Sundays**

**Children's Spring Musical Practice
is at 4:30 p.m. Sundays**

Both choir practices canceled February 5th!



**Work days for cleaning the
nursery and supply closet!**

**February 20-23 10:00 to noon each day.
Email at fcoc@sault.com if you can help!**

**Mission of the Quarter
Food Pantry**



We will be collecting cereal, canned meats, peanut butter, canned veggies and fruits, pasta and sauces, energy bars, any nonperishable food item.

**Please place your donation on the
Mission Table in the lobby.**

Giving Information

January	Giving
1	\$5,522.36
8	\$4,549.62
15	\$5,788.88
22	\$4,988.35
29	\$5,126.00
Average	\$5,195.04

Prayer Concerns

(Please call the church office with updates)



Our country and those serving in the military
Helen Carrier—In Tendercare
Kevin Farrar—Health concerns
Barb Farrar—Health concerns
Lee Ward (Bill's brother) - Poor health
Phyllis Synett—In Rogers City Rehab
Jessica (Moniz) Flood—Continued chemo
Becka Alcom's Grandmother—Lymphoma
Marlene (Nancy LeGreve's sister) - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
Deepmala Cook and family: Brother has hole in the heart, father has diabetes and needs kidney transplant, Dee having heart health issues
Audrey LeLievre—Recovering from surgery

Colleen Barr Sibbald—Cancer
Kady Love—2 year old with cancer
Cody McCoy—Serious condition in Grand Rapids hospital
Jennifer Brown—Health concerns
Betsy Demaray—Cancer returned, started chemo
Gary Wackler—Prostate cancer, chemo
Bailey Savoie—Seizures, on medication
Dan Reattoir, Sr.—Terminal cancer
Mary Ann Keeney—End stage liver disease, discussing options
Coleeta's mom—PRAISE! Doing well after heart surgery

Cancer Concerns

Bonnie Weber 5/11 Deb Pifer 5/11 Judy Jorgensen Joske 5/11
Janet Elliott 7/11 Sue Short (L. Ulrich) 6/11 John DePlonty (Eva Moore) 9/11
Richard Johnson 11/11



**Rock and Worship Roadshow Concert
Ypsilanti, MI, February 3rd and 4th
Middle School Students!**

**We will leave at 9 a.m. Friday, return by 1 p.m. Saturday
Bring a sack lunch on Friday!**

Cost is \$25 plus money for 2 meals and anything you want to buy—T-shirts, CDs, etc. Contact Josh Dowdy for details and to register!