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**VALENTINE'S PARTY AT HOPE HOUSE:** pizza, cupcakes, karaoke & friends!

## Upcoming activities

Tuesday, Feb. 23, Stuart Heights Baptist Church group at Faith House for dinner and fellowship.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, Movies after Dinner at Hamilton Place, **Point Break**. We'll leave at 7:00. Tickets on us, snacks on you!

Thursday, Feb. 25, afternoon games at Faith House, 1:00

Friday, Feb. 26, Jericho Brass Band at the North River Civic Center. We'll leave at 6:30. Dinner will be a bit early.

Saturday, Feb. 26, Walmart shopping trip.

Today's issue, please understand, is not intended to disturb anyone's freedom of religion while discussing the celebration of Lent, a 40 or 50 day time frame, depending on your religious tradition. The 40 days before Easter symbolize the time that Jesus fought temptation in the wilderness and the days following Easter include Ascension Day recalling his rising to heaven. The one day spent on Easter celebration acknowledges Christ's resurrection and an acceptance of eternal life to HIS believers. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a period of fasting or sacrifice as a means of spiritual renewal and reflection on Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

Typically, the 40 days are used as a time of atonement, fasting, and prayer. Although many people use this time each year to give up things they know are not of any real benefit, with the ending of the season, old habits often return. People have been accused of either not taking the tradition as serious as they should, or, in some case, a bit too extreme.

As a result, I have created my own personal sacrifice that I feel is an appropriate request of my friends and readers. I am asking that we all have greater than good intentions, together with true action, and forget about being so negative in everyday life. Life itself is an attitude and therefore a choice. I am hoping we can choose to be kinder, gentler in our behavior, and more positive with our actions that are shaped by our attitude. We need to remember, we all have the ability to achieve and get exactly what we must have. But we must also admit there is a difference between a "must" and a "want." When we are able to do this, happiness is the end result. Forgive my belief in the power of quotes, but "Happiness is not something you postpone for the future, it is something you design for the present, and eternally."

My main focus, therefore, is that we need to be more appreciative to a man who gave up his entire life to help offer you eternal life and this surely deserves more than 40 days of thoughtful church attendance and prayer. There is a reason that Lent is one of the oldest observations of the Christian calendar. As a result, maybe you should give it some appreciation. I think it will help you find more true happiness. If that's one of your main goals, then, actively, good intentions aside, Just do it!

**Connor's  
Corner**

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