



FAMILY TIES

Alta Woods Baptist Church

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A Love Letter

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. *Psalm 139:1*

I know when you sit down and when you rise up. *Psalm 139:2*

I am familiar with all your ways. *Psalm 139:3*

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. *Matthew 10:29-31*

For you were made in my image. *Genesis 1:27*

In me you live and move and have your being. *Acts 17:28*

I knew you even before you were conceived. *Jeremiah 1:4-5*

I chose you when I planned creation. *Ephesians 1:11-12*

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. *Psalm 139:15-16*

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. *Psalm 139:14*

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. *James 1:17*

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. *Jeremiah 29:11*

Because I love you with an everlasting love. *Jeremiah 31:3*

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. *Isaiah 40:11*

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. *John 17:26*

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. *1 John 2:23*

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. *Revelation 21:3-4*

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. *Revelation 21:3-4*

*I Love You,
God*

*For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

What Do You Think of When You Hear the Word LOVE?

Although flowers, chocolates, red hearts and valentines are the mainstay of February, for many of us Love is the first word that comes to mind. Jerri Kennedy talked with some of our members to get their reaction to what love makes them think of. First and foremost is our Father's love for us.....so great was His love that He sent His only Son to die for our sins. Let's hear some of our member's comments on Love.



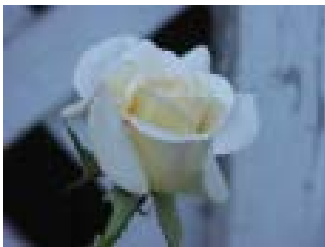
Bobbie Pitts... when thinking of the word *love*, "I think of love of God, love of family, love of my country, and love of friends. God blessed me with a loving husband, children, and two grandchildren. My love for my country brings praises for the sacrifices that have been made in protecting our freedoms. I love the friends I made while working at Deposit Guaranty Bank and they are still some of my best friends.

I always want to better understand and love my neighbors, in line with the admonition in scripture to love our neighbors as ourselves."

Jan Gabriel knows that the emphasis of this February *Family Ties* is not just about romantic love. However, this time of the year – February, Valentine's Day – just naturally brings thoughts of romantic love. She adds that as the years of marriage have mounted up, the word "romantic" has another dimension: the need to depend on each other for their basic needs. In earlier days of marriage, many things could be handled by one of them, but now and in the future she could see how important it is to understand and respond to the physical and emotional needs of each other.



She added that the realization is always there that one day only one of them will remain. "So as we get older we appreciate having another person to help us out."



Lee and Naomi Ferrell place love of God and love of family high on their list. "We are grateful for a loving God who looks after us even during these past months of physical problems. " Naomi recalls, "One of my most personally fulfilling jobs was during a period as a teacher's assistant at Marshall Elementary. I worked with some students who had difficulties learning, and was elated each time I saw improvement in their skills." This was during a time of transition in our schools, and the love she exhibited was especially needed at that time.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

Kyrous Brown... "I love to help others, and the word *love* especially encompasses all of my 'nursing home people.' There I find people desperately seeking love, and I try to love them, but I am blessed with an abundance of love from them." While she visits a number of nursing homes several times a week with Dr. Thomas and others, she manages to find time to see other people on her own. These include Alta Woods members, former members, or relatives of members." She tells us, "I feel fulfilled in going and seeing all of these people in the nursing homes. We hug their necks, have Bible study, sing and pray. They let us know they love us and appreciate our coming."



Kyrous still finds time for her Sunday School class. She telephones or visits those who are absent or sick. And, of course, she has to find time to take care of her number one love, Ray.

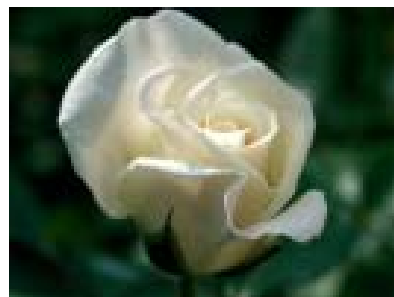


Ardis Jones... "I first thought of the love of God and what God has done for me and my family for sixty-plus years. I've been blessed with my wife Muriel for sixty-six years. Our marriage was a rushed up affair because I was going overseas with the army. We were young and foolish – but I think it's going to work out, though!" It is evident that Ardis is thankful for his wife, his boys and his grand-

children. He loves his country and hopes things will get better for everyone.

Ardis also had a job he loved. He's retired now, but he still recalls how he loved working and earning a living to support his family.

Prissy Lott... "I am grateful for the love of my husband Hal and our three boys and six grandchildren (including two sets of twins!) To me the word *love* includes my marriage to the same person for forty years, as well as the love of many caring friends. I am extremely grateful to God for seeing us through this journey of life so far."



Prissy has shared the love of God with others through many years of teaching children. Once while teaching in Wyoming she saw teachers refuse to hug a child because he had a runny nose; and she thought, "That's not how we do it down South." Before her recent retirement she taught in the public schools of Rankin County, where some lucky children had a caring teacher.



"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son. . ."
1 John 4:10

The Head of Christ



Dr. Sam Gore was our guest last summer for our First Annual Widows and Widowers Dinner. He sculpted the Head of Christ as music played in the background. Other than the music playing softly, the room was totally silent as people watched.

The sculpture has now had time to cure and has been treated. We just received the sculpture this week and have placed it in the glass display case outside Adult 2 Sunday School Department right across from the first floor elevator.

Donnie has done a magnificent job with the base and inscription plates. He and Bill Phillips have taken very good care of this sculpture as we've waited for it to be ready. Thanks to both of them!

The Deacons of Alta Woods sponsored and paid for the Widows and Widowers dinner and took up a collection among themselves to purchase the sculpture for the church. The church thanks you (Deacons) for treating the church widows and widowers to a "night out" and for the beautiful expression of your love for our Lord.

<http://www.altawoodsbaptist.org>