

FEBRUARY 2013

Birthdays

2 nd	Claire Sims
4 th	Evelyn Resler
6 th	Mark Clapp
9 th	Casey Porter
11 th	Kay Pierce
12 th	Nancy Sullivan
15 th	Tasha Campbell
20 th	Mike Canty
	Nancy Cummings
	Angie Speer
21 st	Sharon Terrell
	Mark Flinn
22 nd	Danielle Richardson
23 rd	Sherry Weeks
25 th	Gary Sullivan
27 th	Paula Bartlett
	Betty Miller

Anniversaries

14 th	Earl & Joanna White
16 th	Steve & Kathy Ham
17 th	Brad & Shawn Hughes

FBC News & Activities

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2012 Offering Totals:

General Fund	\$31,703.85
Youth	\$119.85
White Christmas	\$2,051.00
Food Pantry	\$1,370.00
Lydia Circle.....	\$50.00
Hurricane Relief.....	\$125.00
Deacon's Fund	\$400.00

Year To Date Totals: (December 2012)

Budget Requirements.....	\$608,321.45
Actual Receipts	\$665,234.80
Actual Expenses.....	\$635,340.86

SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE – February 9

Special Olympics Indiana is a nonprofit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in more than 20 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 11,000 athletes throughout the state of Indiana. The Special Olympics will be held in Terre Haute 7-9 June. There are two opportunities to support the Special Olympics:

1. You can support this event by joining our team for the Polar Plunge!! Participants will 'plunge' into polar water Saturday, 9 Feb at 0930 at the Hulman Center on the Plaza in Terre Haute. Participants must raise a 'bear' minimum of \$75 (\$50 for students with a student ID). Our team currently is comprised of Tony Resler, Braden Hudson, Greg and Georgia Flinn. Please contact Greg or Georgia Flinn to join our team or sign up to contribute support for our plunge.

2. If you are interested in volunteering one day or more during the Special Olympics in June, please contact us for more information.

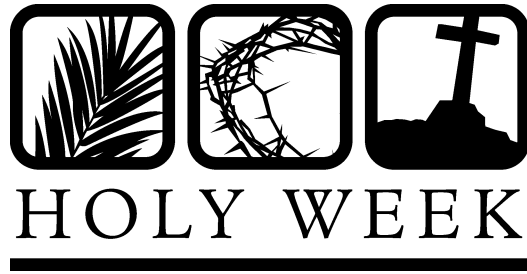
Freezin' For A Reason



ASH WEDNESDAY – February 13



The sanctuary will be open throughout the day on Ash Wednesday for silent reflection and prayer. A written guide will be provided to lead you through this process. Everyone is welcome to come and go as the Lord leads. Between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m., ashes will also be available if you would like to receive the mark of the cross upon your forehead at the end of your time of reflection. This is of course optional. You are also welcome to come get a prayer guide and then go to a different location to pray if you like. However you choose to observe Ash Wednesday, the goal is that we would enter into the season of Lent with an attitude of humility and repentance. If you have any questions, please ask Nathan or one of the deacons.



COMMUNITY LENTEN BREAKFAST / HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Saturday	February 16	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ First Presbyterian
Saturday	February 23	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ First Christian
Saturday	March 2	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ Mineral Methodist
Saturday	March 9	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ Refuge Assembly of God
Saturday	March 16	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ Tulip with Word of Life
Saturday	March 23	8:00 am	Lenten Breakfast @ First Baptist
Friday	March 29	7:00 pm	Community Good Friday Service @ First Presbyterian
Sunday	March 31	7:00 am	Community Easter Sunday Service @ United Methodist

MEF SUSTAINING FUND

Through a grant from the Lilly Endowment, the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky (ABC/IN-KY) Region has established the Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF). The MEF benefits Professional Church Leaders (PCLs) from both the ABC/IN-KY and the American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis (ABC/GI). The purpose of the MEF is to remove financial barriers that prevent PCLs from focusing on the greater tasks of Kingdom ministry. By removing barriers of financial hardship and need, the path is cleared for pastors to focus on, develop and implement excellence in their personal ministry serving their local churches in the Kingdom.

The MEF ministry is under the direction of Dr. Marc Kirchoff, Minister of Grants and Fundraising for ABC/IN-KY. He works in collaboration with a Steering Committee, known as the MEF Team, consisting of one other staff person, four clergy and two lay persons who oversee the ministry. The Committee established guidelines and developed an application process and meets at least quarterly to assess grant requests.

Having seen the great needs among clergy in our Region, we know we must continue this vital ministry well into the future. In the first 4 years of our MEF ministry we have approved 96 grants, releasing more than \$1 million (grants plus matching funds) in financial relief to PCLs in need. As required by grant guidelines, each distribution must be met with a dollar-for-dollar match. To ensure funding sufficient to sustain the ministry in perpetuity, we seek to establish an MEF Sustaining Fund. To date, we have been blessed to receive commitments totaling more than \$560,000 for the Sustaining Fund.

At the February 7th Congregational Meeting, the Church Council will recommend a means by which we can support the MEF Sustaining Fund as a church. Any individuals who also desire to support the MEF privately are encouraged to do so, on a one-time or ongoing basis. If you have questions, please ask Pastor Nathan, or contact Dr. Marc Kirchoff at marckirchoff@abc-indiana.org.



Youth Happenings!

FRUITFUL LIVES ADORING THE MERCIFUL EVERLASTING SAVIOR
"HIS WORD IS IN MY HEART LIKE A FIRE." JEREMIAH 20:9

Sun. Feb. 3rd ~ Super Bowl Party

Location to be determined. We are accepting invitations!

Fri-Sun. Feb. 8th – 10th ~ Young Women's Retreat @ Indian Creek (High School & College Age) "Broken to Beautiful" Using material from "A Perfect Mess" (by Lisa Harper), learn that God loves the perfect mess He made you to be. Don't worry about being good enough for God, but learn to be the beautiful Christ follower He intended you to become. Stop trying to hide our inadequacies and doubts, and instead trust God with our anger, frustrations, flaws, and regrets. Exchange your junk for His Joy, you'll find imperfect pieces of your life shaped into a glorious patter of divine Grace. The Youth Fund will pay \$40, you pay \$35.



Sat. Feb. 9th Polar Plunge in Terre Haute. Talk to Georgia Flinn if you want to participate and raise money for the Special Olympics.

Fri. Feb. 15 – 17 ~ Girls' Chrysalis at Illiana. (also note that there is a Girls' Chrysalis April 26-28th at Hoosier Hills. This is for Sophomore – College Age girls.

Fri. Feb. 22 ~ 5th Quarter 8:30-11:00pm

Fri-Sun. Feb. 22-24th ~ Jr. High Retreat @ Indian Creek "I Am Second"

Who's in the driver's seat of your life? Using the fantastic "I am Second" material, learn how to put Jesus first in every situation. The Youth Fund will pay \$40, you pay \$35.

Spring Break, March 25-29th We'll be planning a girls' night one day this week, so check your schedules and let me know what works for you!

Fri-Sat. April 5th & 6th If you are interested in attending Acquire the Fire, April 5th & 6th, you need to turn in a \$20 deposit to Tasha by Wed. Feb. 6th. The full amount will be \$35. We need at least 8 people to sign up to go to make this trip.

We are postponing our annual **Valentine's Dinner** this year and hope to have it later in the spring. Stay tuned for further details!

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

DAYCARE NEWS

No matter the weather hot or cold sunny or still dark my 6 year old neighbor stands at the top of her driveway to talk to God each morning before she goes to school. I think about the little girl's Mommy who patiently waits because she sees how important it is to let her daughter have her time with God each morning. I am sure there are many times she just wants to go but knows this is the right thing to do. The Mom is teaching her daughter the importance of putting God first. What a blessing it would be if we all took the time to talk to God each morning before we start our day, If we all just gave him a few minutes to thank him for all he does and has done for us. Each morning our school age children have prayer and devotion before they get on the bus, we talk about the importance of being kind to each other and praying for those that are not kind to us and how we can help others. It truly makes my day to watch and listen at this time.

We will be exchanging valentines on Thursday Feb. 14th. There will be a list for you of the children that are in your child/ren s rooms. We will provide snacks for this day and talk about how Jesus loves us and the ways we can show his love to others.



Thank you for your continued prayers and support,
Tammy Kirkman, Daycare Director

PRESCHOOL NEWS

The 3-4 year old classes have gotten our year off to a great start. We started back from the holidays on January 3 and we did so with some fun review. We also spent some time talking about the winter season and creating some winter crafts and eating snowball cookies and drinking hot chocolate.

So far, we have introduced the letters N, O, and P and the numbers 1, 2, 3. Along with reading many stories including Noah's Ark, The Napping House, Commotion in the Ocean, Joshie Otter, Jesus and Peter Walk on Water, If you give a pig a pancake. With these great stories we have created crafts and had a lot of fun snacks to go with our lessons, for instance, Noah' ark and cereal necklaces, owls and obey donuts, painted pigs, pretended to pop popcorn with a parachute and ate pancakes.

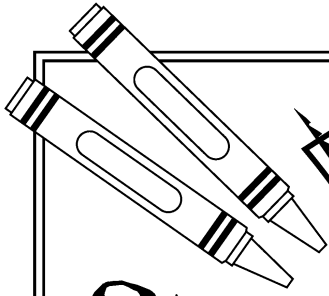
With all the fun along the way we have continued to do review of the letters, colors, shapes already introduced, along with learning to trace our names and practicing with our scissor skills.

Blessings,
Mrs. Farmer and Miss Katie

The four and five year old classes came back from Christmas break with a lot to tell about their Christmas breaks and the fun that they had in the snow! We have resumed our work with the letters of the alphabet. We always have a lot of fun during Nn week when we tell the story of Noah building the ark. There are so many great activities to do! The anticipation for Pp week begins to build even before we get to that week. Just think of the many things that begin with the letter Pp...pizza, popcorn, peanut butter, and pajamas! The children were so excited about Pajama Day!

On a more personal note, my husband's cancer has returned, but I have to feel very blessed by the support, encouragement, and prayers that have come our way from the preschoolers and their families. I do thank God for the Christian love that surrounds us.

Blessings,
Mrs. DeGott and Miss Katie

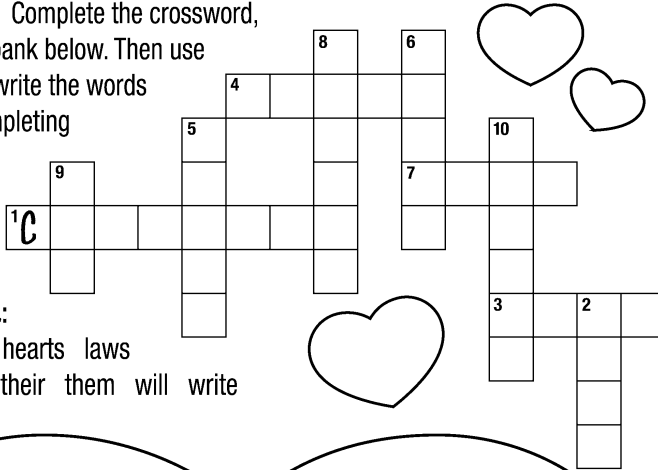


PUZZLE

ON THEIR HEARTS

God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.

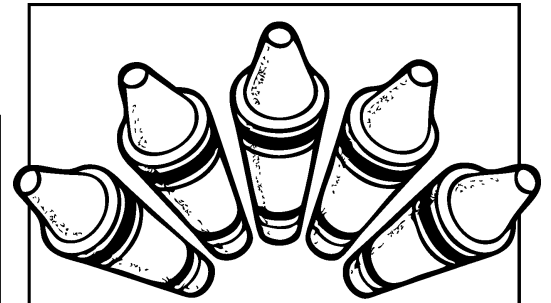


WORD BANK:

covenant God hearts laws
minds people their them will write

"This is the 1) _____ | 2) _____
 put my 3) _____ in 4) _____ 5) _____ and
 6) _____ 7) _____ on 4) _____ 8) _____
 | 2) _____ be 4) _____ 9) _____,
 and they 2) _____ be my
 10) _____."
HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

Answer: "This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." Hebrews 8:10, NIV



Crayon Heart

Make heart-shaped crayons as a reminder that the things of God should be written on our hearts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Oven
- Oven mitt
- Heart-shaped silicon mold (available at craft stores)
- Old crayons

What you do:

1. Heat oven to 230 degrees.
2. Remove paper wrappers from crayons. (This is easier if you soak crayons in cool water first.)
3. Break crayons into small pieces. Place pieces into heart-shaped mold, filling them about two-thirds full.
4. Bake for 15 minutes or until crayons have completely melted.
5. When the heart-shaped crayons are cool, remove them from the mold.

A Note from Pastor Nathan

When the middle of February rolls around a new season begins. I am not referring to the day pitchers and catchers report to spring training, although I like that day a lot. But I write about something much more significant. On Ash Wednesday the season of Lent begins, forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter.

Easter Sunday marks the beginning of another season on the traditional Christian calendar – seven weeks focused on the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every time Christians gather for worship on any Sunday we proclaim the resurrection, and yet the season of Easter has been observed as a special time of celebration. Before the seven weeks of Easter, however, we travel together through six weeks of Lent.

We live in a world that likes to skip through the hard things in order to get to the fun things. There is nothing more fun and glorious than the message we Christians proclaim through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet we would be negligent to proclaim this resurrection apart from the death that preceded it. While salvation is offered to us freely, it does not come cheaply. He took up our infirmities. He was pierced for our transgressions. By His wounds, we are healed. Christ's route to the resurrection was the way of the cross. And we remember that it was for our sins – my sins, your sins – that He died.

Then of course there is our calling, to also walk in the way of the cross. Jesus says to all of us: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it" (Luke 9:23-24, NIV '84). The Gospel bids us to come and die that we may truly live.

Therefore, it is appropriate for us to enter into the season of Lent with an attitude of humility and repentance. It is good to reflect on Christ's suffering and death and to contemplate the depth of His love for us. Lent also offers us an opportunity to examine ourselves, confess our sins, and receive the forgiveness and cleansing God promises to provide. Indeed, victory over any and every sin is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Deacons and I have been praying for some time about how we as a church can better respond to issues of sin. Far too often, churches fall into one of two ruts. The first rut is to ignore sin altogether. The second rut is to pick out a few sins that really bother us, and to blast the people who are (at least perceived to be) doing those things. My firm belief is that we are called to – and capable of – a better way forward.

So we have planned a special and fitting church-wide emphasis on sin during this Lenten season. Our adult and youth Sunday school classes will join with the sermons and our Sunday evening Campfire services in focusing on this theme. We will deal with these topics: How Sin Happens, What Sin Does, Why Sin Matters, When Temptation Comes, Where the Church Comes In, and Who Can Help. These are relevant and necessary things to talk about together.

Of course, the Deacons and I hope you will participate by your attendance. But please also come with the right attitude. This is not, "All right! Nathan's going to preach about sin and I hope he really lets So-and-So have it!" No. We must all come humbly and honestly. If the Holy Spirit is going to bring us a word about sin, our prayer is, "Search me, O God," and, "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

We will never experience victory over sin if we only think it is something that other people have a problem with. Sin must be something that we own up to – and not just sin from our past but sin that may be ongoing, whether we have admitted it yet or not. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. So let us humble ourselves that the Lord will lift us up! Pray that God will do a mighty work among us and set us free. The One who calls us is faithful, and He will do it!

Grace and peace,
Nathan