

1st Things


Waiting on God



On May 5, Americans observe the National Day of Prayer. Waiting on God is an important component of prayer. It's hard to understand why God delays when we cry out for help. Why does he allow us to suffer, when he could just say the word and make it all better? Why must we wait?

Consider a child whose parents always give her whatever she asks, as soon as she asks for it. That child has little opportunity to learn patience or gratitude. Because she doesn't know what it's like to not have, she cannot appreciate the true value of something.

God may have some of these things in mind when our prayers go unanswered for a time. As the psalmist exhorts, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14, NRSV).

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reMarks	2	Sunday		
Encouraging Words	2	9:45 AM	Bible Study	
In the 1st Place	3	11:00 AM	Worship	
Coming Soon	4	5:00 PM	Choir Practice	
Business Meeting	5	6:00 PM	Bible Study	
Announcements	5	Monday		
1st Dates/1stTeams	6	7:00 PM	Visitation	
		Wednesday		
		12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	
		7:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	

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focusing on the ONE

reMarks

"We tend to be devoted, not to Jesus Christ, but to the things which allow us more spiritual freedom than total surrender to Him would allow."

- Oswald Chambers

Does that statement stir you? Does it offend you? Do you find truth in it?

"For the watching world, we ourselves serve proof that God is alive. We form the visible shape of what he is like." - Philip Yancey

Church has become a place where we do many good things, but we have forgotten or abandoned the ONE thing. Our gatherings should be predicated on the goal of re-igniting the fire of our first love. Now, that first love MUST be the love of God, and I believe it encompasses the love God has for us as well as that burning, yearning we experienced for Him when we first came to Him.

The world and the things of the world dampen our "Holy Fire." We get distracted by or enamored with the situations and circumstances around us. The events of our lives draw our attention away from God. This is why the writer of Hebrews reminds us not to forsake re-uniting with the body of faith.

It's like taking one of the coals you heated up in the grill, pulling it away from the others, and setting it down by itself. It will quickly lose its flame, but if you place it back in the grill with the other coals, it will quickly re-ignite. This is what church is supposed to be. Our primary goal for every gathering should be to re-ignite each other. We should be challenging one another to burn brightly.

A coal surrenders its entire self to the purpose of the flame. The problem for us is that we are living sacrifices, and like someone once said to me, "Living sacrifices keep crawling off the altar." It is much easier to devote ourselves to the ideas and concepts of the fire than it is to devote ourselves to the fire. Devotion to the ideas and

concepts won't make as much difference as a drop in the ocean. Devotion to the fire will change us, and through us, change the world.

God hasn't called us to sit in the bag, unlit. He hasn't called us to do the task alone. He has called us and made us to work together. He has called and made ALL of us for the fire. Focus leads to surrender. Surrender requires focus.

Are you in focus?

Pastor Mark

ENCOURAGING WORDS



Revelation 3:15-16

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Thoughts on this verse

At one time or another in our lives, we have all tried to straddle a fence. It may have been a literal event for you, but most likely it was a figurative episode. Either way the end result was not the desired outcome. Many Christians try to keep one foot in the world while endeavoring to follow Jesus with the other foot. I find out that I am no more capable of doing the splits in my spiritually than I am physically – both cause discomfort and pain.

We must give our undivided attention and whole hearts to God. He desires nothing less, and deserves nothing less. Make your choice today to be what God intended you to be, the results of not doing so will bring you a lack of joy and fellowship with Christ.

Prayer:

Father God, help us in our weakness by reminding us of Your indwelling presence in us. Draw our focus to You, so that we may point others to You. Amen

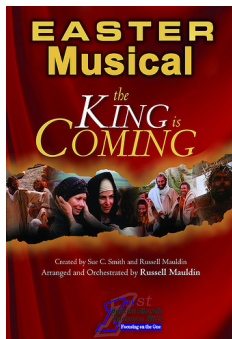
in the **1st** place

If you weren't with the **1st Family** last month, here's what you missed.



EGG-Stravaganza — Annual Easter Egg Hunt SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Thanks to all the ladies who helped prepare the eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt. We'll have a report on attendance and activities next month.



Thanks to the choir for their presentation on Palm Sunday of "The KING is Coming." The music contained the story of salvation and praise for our Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful for all who joined us for this worship service.

Pastor Mark concluded his *Audacious Faith* series on April 3 with his sermon "When There's Nothing to See."

On April 10 his sermon was "Room in My Heart."



On Easter Sunday, Pastor Mark begins a new series entitled **I QUIT**. Fed up with the status quo? The way things are isn't the way things have to be. See what happens when you're ready to say, "I quit."



ATTENDANCE

Following is our average attendance March 27—April 20:

Sunday School	—	24
Sunday Worship	—	49
Sunday PM Bible Study	—	14
Weds. Prayer Noon	—	3
Weds. Prayer PM	—	7

CHURCHWIDE CLEAN UP DAY

Have you noticed how neat and trim the bushes along the front of the church look? A big "Thanks" to the clean-up crew who showed up on April 2nd. We appreciate all their hard work.

Our goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was \$500.00. We were able to collect \$286.73 (57%) to date. You can still give to this North American Mission Offering which provides help to missionaries throughout all of North America.



On **Tuesday, April 12**, we provided a meal for the students in the **Collegiate Ministry** program at the University of Cincinnati. As always, the students were very appreciative (and hungry). This program is one of the ministries of the Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati.

Coming Soon...

In the future, you have an opportunity to experience God's blessings through these upcoming events.



We have been invited to the Ohio Prayer Breakfast on **Thursday, May 5** at the Crowne Plaza on Pfeiffer Road from 8:00 to 10:00 AM. Cost is \$14.95. See information on the bulletin board.

We'll be joining with the Anderson community on **Thursday, May 5 at 12:15 PM for the National Day of Prayer** at Anderson Hills United Methodist Church. A picnic lunch will follow. Let us know if you would like to attend.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8. Honor your Mother! This is commanded by God.

BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday
May 11—7:00 PM

PRAYER BREAKFAST
Saturday
May 14 at 9:00 AM

CHURCH COUNCIL
Saturday
May 14 at 10:30 AM

During the week of June 27-July 1, **World Changers** will be in Cincinnati working with the Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati. Over 300 students are scheduled to come to Cincinnati to help homeowners with various maintenance jobs. There will be 25 work crews throughout the city. We have been asked to take lunch to one of the crews of 16-20 people during the week. If you would like to help, you can prepare food and/or volunteer to take the food to the project site. There you can meet the young people and learn more about this summer. A sign-up sheet will be posted.

May 21 — 9:00 AM — WORK DAY
Help is needed to do some additional maintenance in the churchyard. All able-bodied men are encouraged to help.

May 21—Noon
Bring your own lunch.



Woman-To-Woman



We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 22.



Our church will be celebrating our **38th Anniversary on Sunday, May 22.** We'll have a potluck dinner following the morning service.

Sunday, May 29—Pastor Mark will be attending Sarah's graduation. The students in the Collegiate Ministry Program at U.C. will be filling the pulpit that morning. Come and support them and learn more about this ministry.

WATER FOR 4TH OF JULY PARADE

We will again provide water for the Anderson Township Parade on July 4th. If you would like to help, you can start bringing in bottled water anytime. Any help you can give on that day will also be appreciated.

ADOPT A FLOWER BED—Volunteers to maintain areas of the church grounds this spring and summer. Please sign up. See Bob Schaefer for more information.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Remember to collect items for children's shoeboxes. You can bring your items to church and place them in the baskets in the adult Sunday School rooms.



Destination: New York City

Bright lights, noisy city, smells of street vendors, Time Square, Central Park, Broadway, Statue of Liberty – What a trip! Sound exciting? Come and join us on our **Vacation Bible School Big Apple Adventure - June 13-17 from 6-8 pm.**

We need a lot of help this year. Please be in prayer about where you might help. We need prayer and teachers. We will also need help with decorations, snacks, crafts, recreation, Family Night, and clean-up at the end of week. Please let Holly know if you can help in any way.



Following is a summary of action taken at the latest Business Meeting.

Regular Meeting—April 13, 2011

The Budget Director’s Report for March showed that our **income exceeded our expenses by \$4577.00.** Year to date expenses exceed income by 228.35. Our principle balance for our mortgage is \$57,643.70.

Transfer of Membership was approved for Karen Hamner McClain (from our Non-Resident list) to Joliff United Methodist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Benevolence Fund Report—The balance in this fund is \$309.93.

NEXT REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING - WEDNESDAY, May 11 AT 7:00 PM.



Congratulations to the following who are graduating this year:

Sarah Baugh—Turpin High School

Chris Omedeo—Anderson High School

Josh Omedeo—Coastal Carolina University



With Special Thanks
God’s spirit shines through
in people like you.

This is just a little note to say thank you all so very much for all of your thoughts, prayers and cards during my recent illness. God’s blessings to all of you.

*Love to all,
 Ruth Keith*



A schedule of the projects being undertaken by Buckeye Baptist Builders this summer is posted on the bulletin board. You’ll remember they provided tremendous help to us a couple of years ago when we had a new roof put on the church. They are always looking for volunteers. Maybe there is a project that you could work into your schedule. I’m sure it will be appreciated by the receiving church.



MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Bob Schaefer has begun to research the records for names of deceased members of our church to prepare a memorial plaque. He needs your help so that the plaque will be complete and accurate. He would appreciate any names and dates you can give him.



Thursday, May 5 — National Day of Prayer
Sunday, May 8 — Mother’s Day
Wed., May 11, 7:00 PM — Business Meeting
Saturday, May 14, 9:00 AM — Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, May 14, 10:30 AM — Church Council
Saturday, May 21, 9:00 AM — Work Day
Saturday, May 21, 12:00 Noon — Woman-to-Woman
Sunday, May 22 — Recognition of Graduates
Sunday, May 22 — Church Anniversary Dinner
Sunday, May 29 — Guest Speaker
Monday, May 30 — Memorial Day Holiday — Church Office Closed



03—Pat Farmer
04—David Smith
07—Zachary Gardner
07—Chandler Smith
24—Bob Bayless
27—Marcia Tinker
31—Chance Smith



08—Norm & Debbie Klenk
23—Paul & Maria Patterson
24—Doug & Tinika Schaefer



1st teams	
GREETERS Janice Smith Trish Michael	CHURCH CLOSER Ron Sargent
SERVING THIS MONTH	
EXTENDED SESSION	SOUND SYSTEM
05/01 David Moughton 05/08 Mike Tierney 05/15 Andrea Smith 05/22 Trish Michael 05/29 Holly Baugh Alternate: Janice Smith Sunday Evening: Holly Baugh	05/01 Sarah Baugh 05/08 David Moughton 05/15 Sarah Baugh 05/22 Sarah Baugh 05/29 David Moughton