

WORSHIP
SERVICES
(9, 11 am)

HIGHER
GROUNDS &
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
(10 am)

SENSE GOD
PERSONALLY
(pages 1-3)

SEEK GOD
PASSIONATELY
(pages 4-5)

SERVE GOD
PURPOSEFULLY
(pages 6-8)

SHARE GOD
JOYFULLY
(pages 9-11)



*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



Sharing the stories of life-changing ministries

Issue 728

June 2010

It is the biggest world-wide phenomenon of the century so far.

- It took radio 38 years to reach 50 million users.
- Television took 13 years to reach 50 million users.
- It took 4 years for the Internet to reach 50 million users.
- In 3 years, the iPod reached 50 million users.
- Facebook added 100 million users in less than 9 months!



Think of social media like you think of a foreign language.

where you find yourself in life and ministry, get involved with people. If they're on-line then that's where we need to have a presence. It can be a disorienting, uncomfortable process, but Love learns the language. Be "Salt and Light," especially if that means being on-line.

Where is First Church engaged in building on-line community?

WHY TECHNOLOGY MATTERS TO THE CHURCH



- If Facebook were a country, it would be the world's fourth-largest.
- One in 8 couples who married last year met on-line.
- Wikipedia has over 13 million articles; 78 percent of them are non-English.

If for no other reason, we should care about the Internet because most everyone else does.

Any missionary worth his or her salt learns the language of the people he or she serves. Social media is quickly becoming the vernacular of our people, a type of language across the planet. The borders of this language are not marked by cultural barriers but birth certificates. Social media is the native language of most everyone under the age of 20. Thirty-year olds speak it fluently. Forty-year olds can pick it up quickly. Fifty-year olds struggle to distinguish "dig" from "del.icio.us." Interestingly, sixty-somethings tend to get it. The fastest growing demographic on Facebook is 55-65-year-old women. No matter

- www.fumcwilliamstown.org [First Church Homepage]
- www.discover-hope.net [Outreach and Compassion Ministry]
- www.leapaheadkids.org [FUMC Learning Center]
- www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=70662106231 [FUMC Facebook Page]
- www.facebook.com/ihsyouth [FUMC Youth Facebook Page]
- steve4040.wordpress.com [Pastor Steve's Blog]
- discover-hope.wordpress.com [Pastor Steve's On-Line Bible Study]



“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?” [Psalm 139:7]

sense God personally

DATES TO REMEMBER

- JUNE 3:** Worship Team Meeting (5:30 pm)
- JUNE 7:** UMW Executive Meeting (1 pm)
Program Leadership Meeting (7 pm)
Trustees Meeting (7 pm)
- JUNE 8:** Children’s Ministry Team Meeting (5 pm)
- JUNE 9-13:** **WV Annual Conference**
- JUNE 19, 26:** Community Breakfast (8 am)
VBS Decorating Party (9 am) Senior
- JUNE 29-JULY 4:** **IHS and crew leave for Creation**
- JULY 11-17:** **St. James UMC Mission Team**
- JULY 26-30:** **VBS**

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

IHS Youth, 6 pm

MONDAY-FRIDAY

Walking, 8:30 am

MONDAY-THURSDAY

Learning Center, 9 am

MONDAY

Girl Scouts, 3 pm
Boy Scouts, 6:30 pm

TUESDAY

Bells, 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Women’s Bible Study, 9:30 am
Volleyball 7 pm



SAY A PRAYER & SEND A CARD
“I thank God upon every remembrance of you.”
 [Philippians 1:3]

JUNE ACOLYTES

9 am Blended Service

- June 6:** Liz Sexton
- June 13:** Amanda Webb
- June 20:** Elissa Erb
- June 27:** Isabelle Erb

11 am Traditional Service

- June 6:** Bryce Sayre
- June 13:** Emily Pickering
- June 20:** Andrew Boley
- June 27:** Luke Nelson

JUNE USHERS

9 am BLENDED SERVICE

Brian & Fred Burge
Steve Bodnar

11 am TRADITIONAL SERVICE

June 6

Rick Blauvelt, Larry & Marilyn Croucher,
Tim Sayer (helpers requested)

June 13

Wes Clarke, Gene Duncan, Karen Fenton (WA) (helpers requested)

June 20

Rex Bush, Ken Cox, Chris Henderhan,
Jim Schmidt, Bob Woodford

June 27

Fred Dearman, Wayne King, Jeff & Pam Middleton, Charles Pickens, Warren Epperly (WA)

(Contact Rex Bush to serve as an usher.)

sense God personally



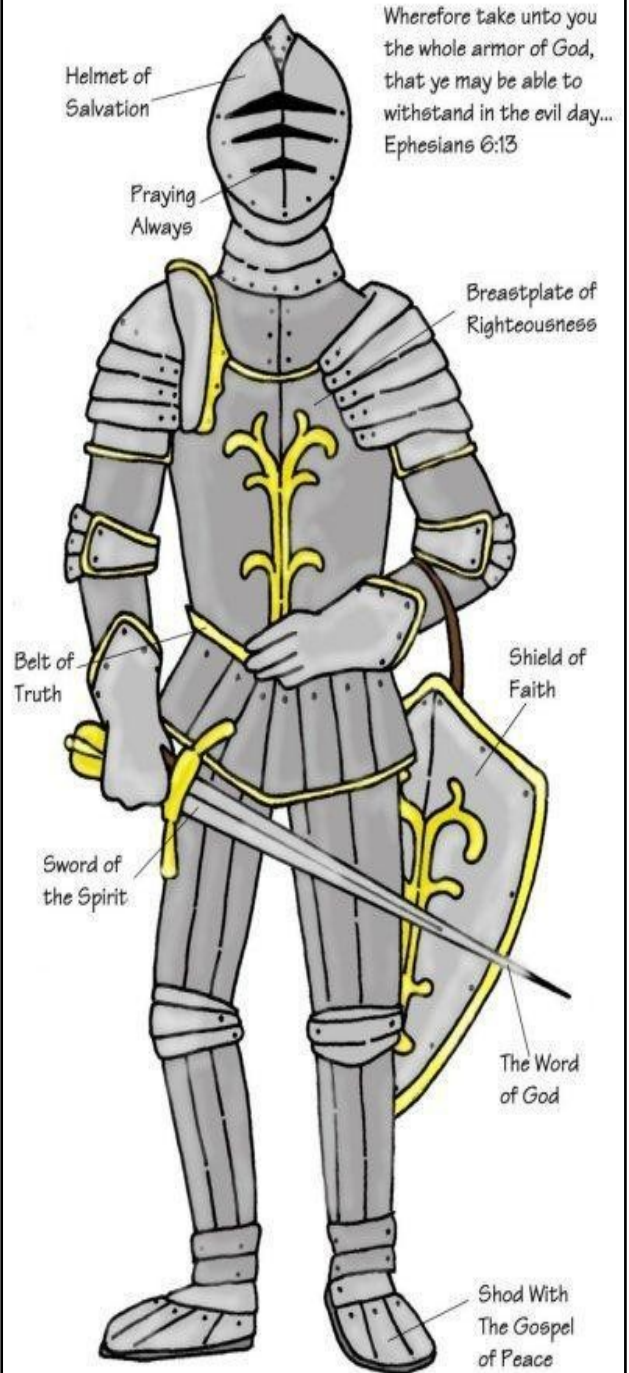
**SAY A PRAYER &
SEND A CARD**
*"I thank God upon every
remembrance of you."*
 [Philippians 1:3]

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- June 1:** Terry Shaw, Anna Webb
- June 2:** Elissa Erb
- June 3:** Jim Lindley
- June 5:** David & Jennifer Fenton, Steve & Sheila Parks
- June 6:** Beth Cox, Becky Sinnett
- June 7:** Mandie Johnson, Pat Waybright, Raymond & Donna Parrish, Rob & Teresa Scott
- June 8:** April Adkins
- June 9:** Sonja Wagner
- June 10:** Craig Chambers, Gary Wilfong, Rob & Stefanie Nelson
- June 11:** Dick & Ruth Blauvelt
- June 13:** Russ Flowers, Dale & Sonja Wagner
- June 15:** Sophia Adkins, Rylee Wagner
- June 16:** Chip & Jan Pickering
- June 17:** George & Nancy Fenton, Jeff & Teresa Martin
- June 18:** Isabelle Erb, Les Mason
- June 19:** Rob Nelson, Jon & Susan Dehmlow
- June 20:** Matthew Webb
- June 21:** Fred & Pam Cannon, Dan & Jennie Parks
- June 22:** Jim Schmidt
- June 23:** Marjorie Hamperian, Marjorie Lane, Becky Martin, Liz Sexton
- June 24:** Rex & Cindy Bush
- June 25:** Ian Boley, Matt Stead, Wes & Hattie Clarke
- June 26:** Bob Altmann, Sia Haynes
- June 27:** Ben Fenton, David & Diana Leo
- June 29:** Elma Boyd, Dolly Palmer

HOSPITALIZED

Larry Croucher Clay Lutz Sue Waybright



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us..."

[John 1:1-2, 14]

seek God passionately



"I can't figure it out," he said to me. He was a professor at the local college, a brilliant mathematician who spent his day figuring out tough problems. So when he said that he couldn't understand something, I sat up and took notice.

"I can't figure it out what makes the church different from other organizations. Our preacher is always urging us to invite someone to church with us. And I sit there, as the preacher talks, asking myself, 'Why would I invite someone to be part of this?'"

He continued, "It isn't that I'm opposed to the church. Who could be opposed to the church? I don't have anything against what we do there on a Sunday morning. It's just..."

people of the Book

"It's just what?" I asked.

"It's just that I don't see anything different or special about what we do on Sunday in church and what's going on at any number of other very helpful organizations. *Friendliness? Caring?* I get all of that at Rotary. And when the preacher talks, it's mostly advice. Mostly good advice, but no different from that which I might get anywhere else. At least Rotary meets at a convenient time of the week."

His comments struck me as so basic, so threateningly to the heart of the matter, that they troubled me for some time. *What would you say to him?* We could say that the church is a caring and loving community, a group of people who are deeply concerned about the welfare of the less fortunate. Any number of other helpful human organizations could make such claims. A host of other community agencies care about the youth, reach out to older people, work for justice for the poor. And it doesn't help to say that the church is somehow *more* concerned about the youth, the elderly, the poor than these other groups. That argument can easily be turned back upon the church. So we are left with the question, *"What makes the church, your congregation and mine, different, utterly essential, without equal, unique?"*

Let me venture a response: *A congregation is Christian to the degree that it is confronted by and attempts to form its life in response to the Word of God. As Christians, we are people of a book, the Bible. That doesn't mean we worship the Bible or that we claim to have somehow captured God between the pages of a book. It means that in our life with the Bible, we claim to have been confronted by the living Lord. We use that phrase "Word of God" in a more dynamic sense than just referring to the words of the Bible. That Word was the Christ, Jesus. Jesus is God's supreme act of self-communication. Yet we would not have known to expect the Christ had we not been taught by the Hebrew scriptures to expect God to love us by speaking to us, had we not been taught to listen for the Word of God by reading the Word of God, which is Scripture. That divine-human dialogue is the originating event of the church. A congregation can fail at many things and still succeed; however, if it fails to be, or at least struggle to become, a people of the Bible, then it might as well stop meeting on Sunday mornings and meet instead for lunch on Wednesdays like any other well-intentioned civic club. [When we allow it,] scripture *forms us, reforms us, and challenges us;* [yet all too often,] we hide from, close our ears to, and evade the Bible's claim on us. The church is more than just another helpful human organization. The church is the main means whereby God speaks, and we listen; whereby we are taught to speak to God with the conviction that God hears *and* cares. The supreme evidence of that divine-human dialogue is the Bible.* [William H. Willimon]

seek God passionately

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

Prayer is the lifeline between us and the One we are designed to exist out of. Sharing daily intimate time with God through prayer is supernatural and miraculous beyond what we can comprehend. It is an issue of time, not technique. Success in prayer is not measured by how many times you see the hand of God move in response to your petitions. Success in prayer is measured by whether or not you choose to participate. Carving out time to communicate with your Father yields a relationship that has enough value to make the whole venture worthwhile, even if you never ask for or receive a single thing.

A nationwide campaign is sweeping through bookstores and churches all across the country posing the question, *“What would Jesus do?”* The initials WWJD are being sported by people of all ages on literally anything that can be imprinted. The goal of the paraphernalia is to remind wearers to ask themselves in every situation, *“What would Jesus do if He were in my shoes right now?”* It is a good question to ask. However, I would like to pose a slightly different question: *“What would Jesus be?”* After all, does not *being* precede *doing*?

Perhaps it is just a matter of semantics, but I believe God is more concerned about who we are than what we do. He underscored the importance of His own being in this conversation with Moses: *“Moses said to God, ‘Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ Then what shall I tell them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.’ [Exodus 3:13-14].*

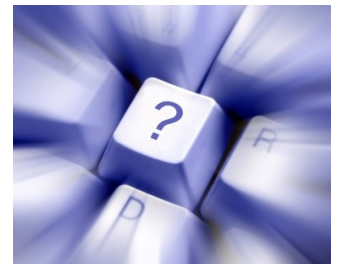
That is quite a statement. It was like God was saying, *“All they need to know about Me is that I am — not what I have done or what I will do, but who I am. My very being encompasses all there is to know about My nature and authority.”*

Our actions flow directly out of who we are on the inside; they are an expression of our being and an undeniable reflection of our spiritual level of maturity. The cliché *“Actions speak louder than words,”* is very true because while we can pay lip service to just about anything, we simply cannot act in a manner that is contradictory to what we are made of — at least, not for long.

Our ultimate goal in life, as well as in prayer, is Christlikeness [Romans 8:29]. If we can become like Jesus, then we will never have to question or contemplate our actions because they will spill out of His Spirit being perfected inside of us. This is the reason we pray. We sit in the presence of God like an apprentice sits before his mentor, watching, listening, questioning, and learning everything we can to make us a reflection of Him. We brake for God — getting still, resting, waiting, listening, sitting, journaling — in order to give Him time to mold us and shape us into the image of His Son.

The blessing that we have in prayer is that we become like Jesus, and out of that fullness, we act accordingly. When we focus on God, He will return our gaze and give us His complete attention.

wwjb???????
brake for God



[Terry Teykl]

casting nets ...  *feeding His sheep*

Ordinary people can do extraordinary things through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth” [Acts 1:8]. As fishers of men accepting Christ’s command to feed and tend His sheep, people at First Church aboard the *SS Sacra Via* cast their nets “making disciples and making a difference” for God while “seeking the presence of God and the transformation of lives.” Journey with the *SS Sacra Via* crew to discover how it has gone “further up and further in” since Advent and what it wishes to do in the months ahead.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY.....Kianna Anderson
 * mailed Lenten calendars * celebrated Easter with Resurrection Trail and Easter egg hunt * sponsored, filled, and gave twenty-two Easter baskets to the Eve shelter * Parents’ Night Out in February and March to benefit Leap Ahead Learning Center * Sunday school teaching children to Live Big with God each day * KiDz PrAz music performances * PALS Children’s Church each Sunday * VBS planning, purchasing, recruiting, and fundraising * Fifty-five children registered for Leap Ahead Learning Center * added two classes to LALC * purchasing for the stocking of new classrooms for LALC * June 4: moving organizing rooms for fall classes to accommodate LALC growth * June 8: end-of-school popsicle party * June 19, 26: VBS decorating party after community breakfasts * June: hiring six new teachers for LALC for fall classes

COMMUNICATIONS.....Cyndy Goldsworthy
 * prepared parking lot entrance bulletin board * changed marquee to reflect sermon and events * designed, loaded slides for both worship services * collected articles for, designed, and typed *Tidings* * June: continue planning for creation of Information Center(s)

EVANGELISM.....Brian & Sandra Boley
 * provided information about and invitation to worship services during chili cook-off for Haiti * talking to people, inviting them to church events and services * four team members attended Lay Speaker Training at Stout UMC— Brian, Sandra, and Ian Boley and Cyndy Goldsworthy * March was Evangelism Month: the congregation was encouraged to talk to their neighbors concerning spiritual issues, and team members have been reminding other teams to plan events friendly to those outside the church * the team wants to remind everyone that “the best, eternal way to love someone is to introduce them to Christ”

FINANCE.....Jon Dehmlow
 The finance team has been meeting regularly. It is composed of several people who bring a variety of financial and accounting experience to the table; and I, Jon, want to thank each of them for their time and contributions to the team. Together, they form a strong team. Recently, two representatives from the UM Foundation in Charleston gave a presentation to the team regarding the services of the Foundation and some information about the accounts that First Church has with the foundation. They also presented ideas about planned giving and stewardship. The operational expenses of the church continue to be met, and the team wishes to express its thanks for that blessing.

HOSPITALITY.....Jennifer Fenton
 * organized chili cook-off to benefit Haiti which then became a church and community-wide event raising over \$1400 for UMCOR * organized Seder meal with Jews for Jesus speaker, * prepared a reception for the confirmands on Confirmation Sunday * offers Higher Grounds between both services each Sunday * organizes greeters for both Sunday services * honored college and high school graduates with a fellowship luncheon * replace the Rt. 14 sign this summer

“Jesus called out to them, ‘Friends, haven’t you any fish?’ ‘No,’ they answered. He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ They were unable to haul the net in....” [John 21:5-6]

serve God purposefully

serve God purposefully

“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” [Matthew 4:19]

PRAYER.....Cyndy Goldsworthy * organized and conducted a week-long prayer vigil in conjunction with the chili cook-off for the people of Haiti following the catastrophic earthquake * organized and conducted a prayer vigil of 70 people undergirding the youth and adults participating in 30-Hour Famine * covering church events and those participating in them with silent, unspoken prayers and sometimes those which are written and included in cards * continued uplifting Pastor Steve and the efforts of the church leadership before God in prayer * June: recruit prayer partners for the youth and adults attending Creation and for the members of the St. James UMC Mission Team from Florida

TRUSTEES.....Steve Bodnar * continue efforts to determine cause of leak in the roof of the church * fixed leaks in main floor and top floor restrooms * considering, based on finances available, installation of new carpet in the youth room; the hallway in the old section of the church where the prayer room and choir room are located; and parts of the parsonage * continue taking steps toward the restoration of the stained glass window called “In the Garden” * June 9: the organ will be tuned

VISITATION.....Marilyn Croucher * regular visits to the elderly at home, in nursing homes, or in assisted-living homes * visits to those in area hospitals * provided favors for each person attending the monthly senior luncheon * sending greeting cards each month * remembered birthdays with flower arrangements and/or cards * special recognition of **Elouise Blouir’s 100th Birthday**; ten friends from First Church attended her party at The Pines, and she received a dozen red roses from FUMC * delivered sanctuary flowers to various Elder Children of God during May * distributed *Upper Room* to shut-ins * delivered Girl Scout cookies to shut-ins * individuals in congregation bought and delivered Easter eggs made

by the youth to shut-ins * mail *Home Touch* to church shut-ins * Karen Fenton and Patty Templeton serve Holy Communion to anyone at The Inn desiring to receive it; they also distribute *Upper Room* while there

WORSHIP.....Pastor Steve * **EVERY MEMBER HAS A MINISTRY; EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE** * celebrated three baptisms since Advent and served communion on the first Sunday of each month * confirmed seven young adults into the congregation on May 16 * conducted the Robert Hasty funeral, the Seder meal, the *Last Supper* Drama, Easter services and reception, and honored women on Mother’s Day * Future Plans: upgrade the memory capacity of the Reuter’s Organ System (\$3000); celebrate Rosh Hashanah in September with Jews for Jesus speaker; fill music director position

YOUTH MINISTRY.....Joe Webb * January: Youth Sunday: Youth shared the story of youth ministries with the congregation * February: Youth Fundraiser: sold Easter egg ornaments and t-shirts to help raise funds for attending Creation Festival; approximately \$1400 was raised * January/February: youth studied issues related to hunger, poverty, and social injustice during Sunday school and youth group * March: 30-Hour Famine: joined with students from Harmony-Zelienople UMC with First Church youth raising \$2400 for World Vision * April: began Sunday school/youth group study of spiritual practices * February-May: Confirmation Class: ten weeks of classes for seven seventh grade students and their mentors, ending in Confirmation Sunday on May 16 * June-August: continue spiritual practices study * June 29-July 4: participate in Creation Festival Northeast, * July 11-17: St James UMC Mission Team; youth will help the team on local mission projects

CHURCH COUNCIL.....Chip Pickering
MISSIONS.....Cathy Engle
STAFF-PARISH.....Cyndi Pyles



serve God purposefully

The **UNITED METHODIST DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRIES** needs the help of First Church members and those of other Methodist churches throughout the state to provide **FLOOD BUCKETS** and **HEALTH KITS** to replenish their depleted supply caused by their response to the flooding in the southern portion of West Virginia. The organization also needs additional supplies to be taken to those involved in the massive clean-up effort in southern West Virginia.

If you can help, please bring the listed items to the church by **JUNE 6** so that they can be transported to the WV Annual Conference where they will be collected and taken to be distributed to those in need.

FLOOD BUCKETS

- 5 gal bucket with re-sealable lid
- Disinfectant dish soap (16-28 oz bottle)
- 5 scouring pads
- 5 dust masks
- Bleach (two 1 qt bottle or one 82 oz bottle)
- 24-bag roll of heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gal-remove roll from box before placing in bucket)
- 1 insect repellent spray 6-14 oz can (if aerosol, can must have protective cap)
- 1 air freshener 8 oz can or larger (if aerosol, can must have protective cap)
- 1 scrub brush
- 50 clothes pins
- 1 pair work gloves
- 7 sponges
- 18 cleaning towels (reusable)
- Clothes line (two 50 ft or one 100 ft)
- 1 household cleaner (12-16 oz bottle)
- 2 pair latex gloves
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz or one 50 oz bottle)

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” [Isaiah 41:10]

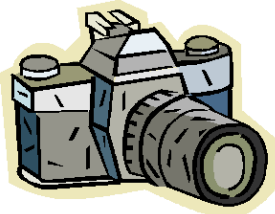
issue 728-June-prepared by Tidings staff
Cyndy Goldsworthy and Tonia Bohnen

HEALTH KITS

- Put all items in a 1 gal sealable plastic bag
- 1 hand towel (15X25 up to 17X27, no kitchen towels)
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-size)
- 1 fingernail clipper (no toenail clipper)
- 1 toothbrush (in original wrapper, no child-size brushes)
- 1 bottle hand sanitizer
- 1 washcloth
- 1 nail file (no emery boards)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz and up)
- 6 Band aids
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES (partial list)

- 25' tape measure
- #5 box roofing nails
- Shovels
- Utility knife (box cutter)
- Cat's paw (nail puller)
- Drills
- Pliers
- Rakes
- 30 wt motor oil
- Sledge hammer
- Assorted chisels
- Wheel barrows
- Axes (single bit)
- Assorted size screws
- Post hole diggers
- Circular saws and blades
- 5 gal water coolers
- 5 gal gas cans
- Propane heater
- Hammers
- Duct tape
- WD40
- Dust masks
- Screwdrivers
- Heavy duty extension cords
- 100' water hoses
- Push brooms
- Safety goggles
- Electrical tape
- Hand saws
- Box fans



focusing on
Young Adults & Girl Scouts

CONFIRMANDS and GRADUATES RECOGNIZED

On May 16, Confirmation Sunday, during a joint service in the MPR, seven seventh graders were welcomed into membership in First Church, along with the acknowledgement of their mentors, following a ten-week confirmation class. Beginning in February, the classes and their teachers included: Does God Exist? (Pastor Steve); Church History and Membership (Jean Pickering); What Is the Bible and How Do I Know It's True? (Joe Webb); God's Good News-The Living Gospel (Neil Parsons); Prayer-How Do I Talk (and Listen!) to God? (Shelley Ash); The Holy Spirit and Our Spiritual Gifts (Tom O'Donohue); The Sacraments-Connecting with God's Grace (Pastor Steve); Worship-What Does It Mean to Praise God? (Allen Sexton); and What Is Faith and How Do I Live with It? (Cyndi Pyles).

CONFIRMANDS & MENTORS

- Heather Albertson.....Cyndi Pyles
- Christopher Berman.....Larry Croucher
- Nate Dehmlow.....Neil Parsons
- Charlotte Gray (also baptized).....Cindy Bush
- Ryan Leo.....Jeff Middleton
- Declan O'Donohue.....Jennifer Fenton
- Megan Sayre.....Audra Fuentes

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Rachael Blauvelt	Jordan Pomrenke
Casey Cogar	Stacia Sandy
David Huggins	Michael Shaw
Connor LaCour	Paul Stephan
	Anna Webb

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Corby Anderson	Katie Cox
Lauren Blauvelt	Craig Fenton
Susan Blauvelt	Katelin Gedon
Bryce Cox	Kylie Wilfong
	Lucy XiLin

The GIRLS SCOUTS PINNING and BRIDGING CEREMONY occurred on May 17.

Daisies receiving year-star and remaining Daisies

Natalie Chambers	Emma Kitchen
Lydia Conner	Lauren Strobl
London Flores	Kenzie Turley

Daisies bridged to Brownies

Hailey Atkinson	Jordan Edwards
Lexi Baileys	Emma Riley Gifford
Jada Beckett	Hannah Harrison
Emma Bradley	Kassidy Miller

Brownies receiving year-star and remaining Brownies

Meadow Gates	Lydia Ryan
Morgan Pemberton	Kiteara Sinnett

Brownies bridged to Juniors

India Flores	Cami Knopp
Sarah Hendrickson	Hannah Miller

Elise Walker

Juniors receiving year-star and remaining Juniors

Courtney Butcher	Rachael Nichols
Alexis Jones	Jillian Rickwartz
Ivy Linger	Nicole Sherrard

Junior bridged to Cadettes

Kaylin Burge	Samantha Moore
Kristen Clem	Sydney Palmer
Catherine Gottschalk	Kyra Wright

Cadettes receiving year-star and remaining Cadettes

Amber Cox	Bettie Shackelford
Jessie Mellott	Kaylee Wagner
Savannah Parks	Amanda Webb

Senior receiving year-star and remaining a Senior

Natasha Wagner

Scouts receiving 5-Year Pin

Amber Cox	Bettie Shackelford
Jillian Rickwartz	Nicole Sherrard

Kyra Wright

Scouts receiving Program Aide Pin

Kaylin Burge	Bettie Shackelford
Amber Cox	Kaylee Wagner
Savannah Parks	Natasha Wagner

Amanda Webb

Juniors receiving Bronze Award (highest level-award)

Kristen Clem	Jessie Mellot
Ivy Linger`	Nicole Sherrard

Adults receiving a Volunteer Pin

Sandy Jones	Keryn Miller
Teri Lee	Raedeena Williams

share God joyfully

share God joyfully

WHY?

does prayer work?

In the beginning, God gave the responsibility of rulership of the earth to Adam and Eve. But, as we all know, they fell. In order to redeem His original intent, God introduced a series of covenants, the last of which would be the New Covenant ratified by Jesus' death on the cross. Through covenant, all that God is He committed to His people with His presence, guidance, provision, and protection.

The benefits of the Covenant are realized and actualized through prayer and worship, both personal and corporate. Therefore, prayer is an intimate and powerful relationship between God and His people. It is His vehicle by which He invades the world with His will, and it is His portal of blessing into our lives [Matthew 21:21, Mark 11:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 5:17].

Prayer access to the Old Testament Covenant was in the names of God: Jehovah—The Great I Am [Exodus 3:14]; El Shaddai — The Lord God Almighty [Genesis 49:24-25]; Adonai — Our Shield [Genesis 15:1-3]; Jehovah Rophi — The Healer [Exodus 15:26] to name four of the seven names accredited to God.

Prayer access to the New Testament Covenant is in one name: Jesus. That's why He said, "And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father [John 14:13].

The Covenant is based on God's Word. God gave us His Word, and it is good, trustworthy, and not to be broken. Prayer in this covenant is based on the language of His Word which is why Jesus said, "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish; and it will be given you" [John 15:7].

The covenant relationship is based on trust. That means that it is faith in God that drives prayer. We pray because we believe God is able and willing, and that He is perfect in His dealings with us.

The Holy Spirit is the co-sponsor of prayer in the human spirit. He is our Helper [Romans 8:26]. As Jesus sits on the throne interceding for the Father's purposes to be fulfilled, He dispatches the Holy Spirit to pray in us, through us, and by us. In turn, as we lift our hearts to God, we become His agents in the earth. The more we pray, the more we become molded and shaped to His heart.

The Holy Spirit comes on the scene in answer to prayer. All through Luke's account of Jesus' life and in the book of Acts, we see a pattern of prayer inviting the Holy Spirit. For example, in Luke 3:21 we read, "When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized, too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove." Again in Luke 5:15-16, we see that Jesus often withdrew to pray, and that the power of the Lord (the Holy Spirit) was present for Him to heal the sick. There is a direct correspondence between prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit. The disciples experienced a similar relationship because when they prayed in Acts 1:14, the Holy Spirit fell upon them in Acts 2. The same thing happened in Acts 9:11 and 9:17, 10:9 and 10:44, 16:13 and 16:14, 16:16 and 16:18, 16:25 and 16:32-33. Over and over we see the principle at work— prayer invites the Holy Spirit. [Terry Teykl]

"It is impossible to lose your footing while on your knees" [Anonymous]

"Because God is the living God, He can hear; because His is a loving God, He will hear; because He is our covenant God, He has bound Himself to hear." [Charles Spurgeon]

share God joyfully

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PERMIT #8

“The Lord
bless you
and keep you;
the Lord
make His face
shine
[and smile]
upon you and
be gracious
unto you;
the Lord
turn His face
toward you
and give you peace.”
[Numbers 6:24-26]

SENSE GOD
PERSONALLY *through engaging*
WORSHIP and PRAYER

SEEK GOD
PASSIONATELY *through BIBLE*
STUDY and SMALL GROUP sharing

SERVE GOD
PURPOSEFULLY
through SPIRITUAL
GIFTS and faithful
STEWARDSHIP

