

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Scott's Perspective — "Because He Lives"

Does it really make much of a difference whether Jesus arose from the dead in bodily form – or whether he experienced some kind of spiritual resurrection in which his spirit lives on after his death (but his body stays dead)?

Yes. Here's why.

The uniqueness of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord depends on the uniqueness of his resurrection.

It could be claimed of anyone that they have had a spiritual resurrection and their spirit lives on after their death. Nothing unique about that. Nothing verifiable or falsifiable about that either.

But only God can raise a dead body back to life again. And the claims of a bodily resurrection can easily be verified or falsified. Either the body is still in the tomb on the third day – or it is gone. Jesus' body was gone. Even his enemies admitted that fact.

God demonstrated the absolute uniqueness of His Son, Jesus, by raising him bodily from the dead. The tomb was verifiably empty on the third day. Jesus was seen alive by eyewitnesses. His voice was heard; his body was touched and handled. A real body. A real act of God. *Jesus Christ is Lord!*

God could say no more clearly than by this miracle: *Jesus is my Son – believe in Him!*

Our final victory over death will be only as complete as Jesus' victory over death.

The Bible teaches that those who belong to Jesus Christ will be united with him in his resurrection. We will share in the likeness of his resurrection. If his resurrection was only a

spiritual, bodiless resurrection, then ours will be also. If his resurrection was a bodily resurrection in an immortal, glorified body – then ours will be also. But if it is only his spirit or memory or influence that lives on after death, then it will be only our spirit or memory or influence that will live on after death.

Eastern religion may be satisfied with that kind of immaterial hope, but the Christian hope is that of eternal life in a fully redeemed body. We will spend eternity in the same kind of transformed, glorified body that Jesus had after his resurrection. Our immortal souls will live forever in immortal bodies.

How can it be said with any integrity or credibility that Jesus Christ vanquished death if his corpse rotted away somewhere in a Palestinian tomb?

What kind of victory is that?

How can it be said with any integrity or credibility that Jesus Christ vanquished death if his corpse rotted away somewhere in a Palestinian tomb? What kind of victory is that?

We know that Jesus Christ arose victorious over death and the grave because his body was resurrected and the tomb was empty. That is how we know that death will not have the final word with us as well. We will experience fullness of life – in a resurrected body – because Jesus Christ is fully alive now – and forever -- in a resurrected body.

God's plan to redeem all of His creation depends on a physical resurrection of Christ.

God's creation was ruined at the fall. For all the beauty this earth and the heavens still hold – *we ain't seen nothin' yet.* We've never seen God's creation in the full splendor of its original beauty before sin and death entered the world.

Upcoming Events

- April 1 Palm Sunday
AM Communion
6:00 p.m. "Creation Investigation" Musical by HUGs & HOT RODS
- April 5 7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service/ROCK
- April 6 7:00 p.m. North Scott Good Friday Service at St. Ann's, Long Grove
- April 8 Easter Sunday
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service & Breakfast at Whispering Pines, Scott Co. Park
No Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Morning Worship
- April 12 5:30-9:00 p.m.
CLASS 101 Blueprint for Membership
- April 14 4:30 p.m. Amber Kloss & Tom MacLean Wedding & Reception
- April 15
6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- April 15 6:30 p.m.
AWANA Awards Night
7:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Parents Meeting with Youth Purpose Team
- April 22 Noon Potluck & Annual Meeting
- April 27 7:00 p.m.
Trivia Night/ROCK
- April 28 6:00 p.m.
Girls Night Out
- April 29
6:00 p.m. Home Groups

(Continued on page 2)

God sent Jesus to this fallen world *in the flesh*. He was born in human flesh. He lived and suffered and died in human flesh. He rose again from the dead in a resurrected body – glorified human flesh, so to speak.

Yes, God is interested in the spiritual salvation of human souls. But His plan of salvation is much bigger and grander in scope than that. Everything that God made – and was ruined by sin and death – will be redeemed. Everything. The physical earth itself will be redeemed and made new.

The Christian hope is not to spend eternity as ghost-like spirits floating around among nebulous clouds. The Christian hope is to spend eternity in redeemed bodies living on a redeemed earth. Christian salvation is not just spiritual – it is also very physical – just as Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection were all very physical. Jesus Christ came and died *in the flesh* – and arose bodily -- to redeem all of God’s creation.

The essence of Christianity is not a philosophy or a morality or a religion – the essence of Christianity is the Good News of what God has done for our salvation in human history through Jesus of Nazareth.

Let the philosophers and gurus and religious teachers philosophize and theorize and speculate all they want about the immortality of the soul and life after death and reincarnation

Church Financial Report

Giving during the month of March was excellent – helping us to compensate for the missing Sunday offering when services were cancelled Feb. 25. General fund (church budget) giving in March averaged \$9,613. For the Jan. – Mar. quarter, giving averaged \$8,800 per week. That is about the level of giving that will be needed for the new fiscal year 2007-08 budget that will be presented at the April 22 Annual Meeting.

Building Fund giving in March was also strong: \$13,486.

Thank you and God bless you for your faithful support of the Lord’s work at Cornerstone.

Save the Date (Revised)

Jill Pearson will be getting married to Peter Swanson Friday evening, June 8 at Grace Lutheran Camp in DeWitt. The date was changed due to snow days, finals schedules, and Peter’s brother’s summer internship in Poland.

and heaven and nirvana and other metaphysical possibilities. Christianity is not a philosophy. Nor a moral code. Nor a religious system.

Christianity is the record of what God did in human history through Jesus of Nazareth to save us from the dominion of sin and death and Satan. His death was the means of victory. His resurrection was the proof of victory.

Biblical faith is rooted in historical realities. At the heart of the Old Testament is not the Ten Commandments or the laws of Moses or the words of the prophets or the songs of the Psalmists. At the heart of the Old Testament is the Exodus – what God did in human history to redeem his people from their bondage in Egypt.

A “spiritual” resurrection might make sense within the framework of a religion that is a philosophy or a collection of metaphysical essays. But Christianity is about what a real God has done in real human history through a real Man to rescue us from the reality of sin and death. And that kind of real salvation requires a real resurrection.

The Good News of the Gospel is that Christ’s resurrection is just as real as death is. And because Jesus lives, so shall we. Hallelujah!

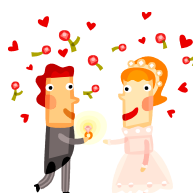
CBC Annual Meeting

Cornerstone’s Potluck and Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 22nd — after Morning Worship/ROCK Center

Please bring your own table service, covered hot dish, salad OR dessert. Our Annual Meeting will follow.

Come and hear about our blessings this past fiscal year (April 2006-March 2007) and our plans for the next fiscal year.

Everyone invited (members as well as attenders)!!



A Word From Pastor Mark

Easter is a time to reorient our hearts. Easter is a time to turn back to God. Easter reminds us of the unfathomable love of God who sent His perfect Son to a painful death on the cross in order to smash the barrier that was built up by our sin. For family devotions, Martin Luther once read the account of Abraham offering Isaac on the altar in Genesis 22. His wife, Katie, said, "I do not believe it. God would not have treated his son like that!" "But, Katie," Luther replied, "He did." So as you partake in Holy Week let us not forget the love that God has for us. It isn't deserved. We haven't earned it. Romans 5:8 in *The Message* reads, "But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him." That is comforting to know that God doesn't love us based upon whether we are being good or bad. His love is unconditional. His love is constant and never changing. It is encouraging to think, "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)



I want to encourage you to take next week off from the usual and focus on the path that Jesus took in love. Consider coming to the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. at Cornerstone. We will spend some time in worship and then together we will participate in communion. Then set aside Friday for the North Scott Community Good Friday Service at St. Ann's starting at 7:00 p.m. It will be another moving service that will help to ground us back to the reality of the cost that Jesus paid. It will also cause us to yearn for Sunday- Easter. May this week turn your hearts toward God. "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." ¹³Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." (Joel 2:12-13)

CLASS 101 – Blueprint for Membership

Thursday, April 12 from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

Are you wondering what Cornerstone believes?

Are you interested in being baptized?

Do you want to become a member of Cornerstone?

Do you like pizza?

If you have answered yes to one of these questions (excluding the pizza question) then C.L.A.S.S. 101 is for you. Christian Life and Service Seminar 101 teaches you about baptism and

membership at Cornerstone. C.L.A.S.S. 101 is taught on Thursday, April 12th from 5:30-9:00 p.m. In 101 you will be able to find out about Cornerstone and the requirements to be baptized and/or a member. You are not required to become a member after 101. But 101 is a requirement to be baptized and/or a member at Cornerstone. So if you are interested in learning more about baptism and membership in a very informal setting C.L.A.S.S. 101 is for you. Best of all, pizza is provided! Please write C.L.A.S.S. 101 on your registration card

Another Trivia Night Coming Your Way!

The Evangelism Purpose Team (EPT) is sponsoring another evening of trivial fun! Cornerstone Trivia Night is designed for you to spend time with those you are reaching out to in a fun, warm (and sometimes competitive!) environment.

What is a trivia night?

Each team consists of one table. Each team will answer 100 questions divided into 10 questions/10 rounds. Each team's answers will be judged and at the end of the evening the top two teams will be rewarded with prizes. You will laugh. You will work your brain. You will work together to come to a consensus. You will bond with your teammates. Your unchurched friends will be glad they joined you.

Who should I invite to the Trivia Night?

Invite your coworkers, neighbors, and friends. Or team up with those in your ABF or small group or ministry to reach out to others outside the church. Make it a girls night out or a men's only table! If you are unable to bring a guest come anyway and get to know our visitors. Consider it a fun opportunity to spend time together. Trivia nights are wildly popular in the QCA- we know your friends will want to come! This

is for singles and couples alike- odd groupings are okay and the EPT will try to fill up to 8 per table.

What is the cost?

The cost is \$10 per person. Consider organizing a table of eight friends. All proceeds will go to help Obang Okello and the Annual Justice Council.

What if I can only think of 1 or 2 others to invite?

That's okay. We can group you together with others.

Will there be food?

Refreshments will be provided.

Will there be child care?

Unfortunately, we will not have child care available. So line up a babysitter soon!

This evening is by invitation only (you inviting someone).

It is not open to the public, like ComedySportz in 2005. Invite as many as you like. So come ready for fun and bring that trivial knowledge with you!

Pastor Tony's No Limits News

Quite some time ago I found this story...pack rat that I am, I have been saving it for quite awhile.

This is the message that the Pacific Palisades High School (California) Staff voted unanimously to record on their school telephone answering machine. This came about because they implemented a policy requiring students and parents to be responsible for their children's absences and missing homework.

The school and teachers were being sued by parents who wanted their children's failing grades changed to passing grades. Even though those children were absent 15-30 times during the semester and did not complete enough school work to pass their classes, the parents felt they should pass.

This is the actual answering machine message for the school:

"Hello! You have reached the automated answering service of your school. In order to assist you in connecting to the right staff member, please listen to all your options before making a selection:

"To lie about why your child is absent - Press 1. To make excuses for why your child did not do his work- Press 2. To complain about what we do - Press 3. To swear at staff members - Press 4. To ask why you didn't get information that was already enclosed in your newsletter and several flyers mailed to you - Press 5. If you want us to raise your child - Press 6. If you want to reach out and touch, slap or hit someone - Press 7. To request another teacher for the third time this year- Press 8. To complain about bus transportation - Press 9. To complain about school lunches - Press 0.

"If you realize this is the real world and your child must be accountable and responsible for his/her own behavior, class work, homework, and that it is not the teachers' fault for your child's lack of effort: Hang up and have a nice day!"

Do you sense that it was difficult to work in that environment?

I am very grateful that we don't have issues like that in youth ministry. Nor do we have staff or volunteers who are tired of working in the system. But like any program that deals with youth, there will always be issues and concerns. Unspoken and undesired expectations and misunderstood activities and events. That is part of the environment of youth ministry.

Here is the deal. We want to help you, the parents of the youth we are trying to work with, help us be the best youth ministry we can be. We want to have the kind of environment where No Limits is working for as many youth as we can. So

what we are planning is to have more opportunities to discuss the No Limits ministry in an open and hopefully informative way. We have planned one of several parent's meetings we wish to have this year. Monday, April 16th we will meet in the Youth Room to discuss the No Limits program and how we can improve upon what we are currently doing. If you have a question or idea, we would like you to email or snail mail it to Me, Pastor Tony at Tonybigcbc@netins.net or Mark Bader at marksonl@aol.com before the meeting. Regular mail can be sent to the church to the attention of the Youth Purpose Team. This will help us have time to consider the information to make the best use of our time that evening. And as always we would ask for your continued support of the No Limits Ministry in your prayers.



In Christ,
Pastor Tony

Up Coming Events April

Sunday 1 st	Dusty Feet 7:30 pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE) Pastor Tony's house
Wednesday 4 th	No Limits 7:00-8:30
Sunday 8 th	Easter NO Sunday School or Dusty Feet
Wednesday 11 th	Project 7 Bettendorf High School Leave Church at 6:30
Sunday 15 th	Baccalaureate Meeting 5:30 Faith Lutheran Dusty Feet 6 pm (New Time) Pastor Tony's house
Monday 16 th	No Limits Parents Meeting 7:00 pm Youth Room
Wednesday 18 th	No Limits 7:00-8:30
Sunday 22 th	No Limits Sunday School Mexican Lunch at Azteca. Leave after church is out. Bring \$5.00 Dusty Feet 6 pm Pastor Tony's house
Wednesday 25 th	No Limits 7:00-8:30
Sunday 29 th	Dusty Feet 6 pm Pastor Tony's house

Faith Community Nurse Corner



Faith Community Nursing exists at Cornerstone Baptist Church to minister to the body of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, by helping to meet health care needs (Mt.25:35-36) to live life abundantly (Jn10:10b).

You will be seeing a name change for us. Our name is officially changing from Parish Nursing to Faith Community Nursing. The American Nurses Association who develops the scope and standards of practices for nurses officially changed the name and we decided to comply with national standards on this.

You may have noticed that we have a nice new bulletin board thanks to Bill Hagge. Soon you will be seeing health topics and current events happening there. Please take a moment to look at the information provided there.

Spring is here!!!! The weather has been gorgeous. The grass is turning green and the spring flowers are poking their heads up. Today I saw the first purple crocuses blooming in our yard. It gives us a great opportunity to thank God for the beauty of nature that He has blessed us with.

From a health perspective I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to get out and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Nationally, Americans live a very sedentary lifestyle. This leads to one of the number one health problems, obesity. Health care providers recommend 30 minutes of exercise five times per week. To some this may seem a bit overwhelming. If you have no measurable activity in your life right now thinking of somewhere to add 30 minutes of exercise into an already bursting schedule is overwhelming. You

can start with a 10 minute walk somewhere in your day. If you can increase that to three times a day you've attained that goal. The activity could look something like a walk to the post office or mailbox to get your mail. It could be a 10 minute walk at the end of your lunch or at break time at work. It could be a walk at the end of the day or after dinner with your family. You get to choose how it fits into your life. The benefits can be immeasurable

Another way to actually measure your activity is to purchase a pedometer and set goals to increase your steps daily. We often overestimate the amount of activity we truly do. Mayo Clinic has a website on walking www.mayoclinic.com/health/walking/SM00056_D to help with some suggestions on starting a walking program and purchasing a pedometer.

Enjoy the spring and improve your health.

Get active.

Submitted by Liz Arter for Faith Community Nursing



A Bouquet of Prayers

Have you ever decided to not attend Wednesday night prayer meetings and then thought...*Oh well. I'm the only one missing out. What good would my prayers add to the meeting? Someone else will pray the same things anyway. I'm not a very good pray-er, so my presence isn't important.*

I'd like to encourage you to think differently. You may miss out, but those who attend miss out even more. We need **all** of your prayers! Every one of us comes to the prayer meetings with a different angle on how to pray for things. It's an encouragement and a blessing to the Body to hear other people praying. And, when we pray, others get to know us in a way that they couldn't have known us otherwise.

A single flower looks nice in a bud vase, but some occasions call for a huge bouquet. Similarly, individual prayers are valuable, but some occasions call for group prayer.



By Teresa Bivens

As I look around this spring, I see flowers poking up everywhere. Some are small and hard to spot; some are tall and brilliant; some are fragrant; some are scent-less, some are brightly colored; some are softly painted; some need full sun; some need shade....and some are still hiding in the ground. Each one is beautiful in his own way and when joined in a bouquet plays an important role.

Are you a flower that is still hiding in the ground? I hope and pray that you'll soon poke through and make your appearance at an upcoming Wednesday night prayer meeting. You may not know it or believe it, but you need us... and we need you!

Wednesday night prayer meetings are held in the ROCK conference room from 7:00-8:15.

Moldova Mission Trip July, 2007

Over \$1100 was received at the Moldova Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 25. All of these funds will be used to purchase Bibles to distribute during the Moldova mission trip. Thank you for your generosity — and thanks to all who prepared and served the food.

The probable dates for the trip are July 3-17. The team will likely consist of about 7-10 Cornerstone members. If you are interested in participating or in more information, contact Lucy Schmidt at 441-9043.

If you are interested in giving to this mission trip, you may make checks payable to Cornerstone STEM with a memo "Moldova trip."

Holy Week Services April 1-8



Palm Sunday, April 1

10:10 am Worship Service

6:00 pm HUGS Puppet Musical:
Creation Investigation

Maundy Thursday, April 5

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service in the ROCK Center. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper Jesus spent with His disciples and the institution of the Lord's Supper. All are welcome to attend.

Good Friday, April 6

7:00 pm North Scott Community Good Friday Service at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Long Grove. There will be a community choir for those interested. The service will feature a Tenebrae Service (a time of remembering the suffering and death of Jesus with Scriptures, hymns, candlelight and growing darkness).

North Scott Food Pantry News

Food needs for the NS Food Pantry are cleaning supplies such as all purpose cleaners, dish detergent, clothes detergent, window cleaner, etc. Peanut butter and jelly, and canned fruit are always needed items.

Because of distribution of Easter baskets on March 30th at Cornerstone, the Pantry will be closed on that Friday, and on Tuesday, April 3rd, and Good Friday, April 6th.

Prayer Focus Calendar

Wednesday, April 4: Home Grown Missionaries

Wednesday, April 11: Deacons

Wednesday, April 18: Annual Meeting

Wednesday, April 25: No focus

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Come and join us!!

Easter Sunday, April 8

6:30 am Sunrise Service at Scott County Park (the new *Whispering Pines Shelter*)

7:30 am Breakfast at Whispering Pines Shelter

10:10 am Easter Worship Service in the sanctuary and ROCK Center

The Sunrise Service at the park and the Easter Worship Services at Cornerstone will be different from each other, and we encourage you to attend both. For the Sunrise Service at the park, please bring lawn chairs and dress warm (and casual). You will have time to go home and change clothes (if you wish) before the 10:10 Worship Service.

Please come early for the 10:10 am Easter Worship Service. It will help parking and seating congestion if as many as possible come at 9:50 am. *Regular attenders in good health: please park in the Physical Therapy lot or the Mel Foster lot to make more room for guests and those who need to park closer to the building.*

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, but there will be Jr. Church as usual.

124th Annual IBC Meeting

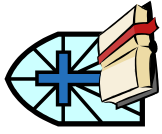
Iowa Baptist Conference

May 4-5

Pine Lake Christian Camp

"Telling the Story" Acts 2:1-16

See Sally for registration forms if you plan to attend.



April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Palm Sunday 8:40 a.m. Prayer AM Communion 6:00 p.m. HUGS Musical 7:30 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home	2 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30-8:15 p.m. AWANA	3 9:00-10:00 a.m. Moms-In-Touch/Library 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/dekers	4 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. High No Limits	5 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service	6 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. North Scott Good Friday Service at St. Ann's, Long Grove	7
8 Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service/Scott Co. Park No Sunday School 10:10 a.m. Morning Worship	9 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30-8:15 p.m. AWANA	10 9:00-10:00 a.m. Moms-In-Touch/Library 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/dekers	11 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. No Limits to Project 7/Bett. HS 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg.	12 5:00 p.m. Puppets to McCausland Methodist 5:30 p.m. CLASS 101 Blueprint/Membership 6:30 p.m. Coed VB	13 April 13 & 14 QC Writer's Conference at Cornerstone	14 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting/Village Inn 4:30 p.m. Amber Kloss & Tom MacLean Wedding/ Olde St. Ann's Church
15 8:40 a.m. Prayer 3:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Jr. Pup./RODS 5:30 p.m. Baccalaureate Mtg./Faith Lutheran 6:00 p.m. Home Groups 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home	16 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30-8:15 p.m. AWANA Award Night 7:00 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Parents w/Purpose Team April 16-28 Pine Lake Work Weeks	17 9:00-10:00 a.m. Moms-In-Touch/Library 6:30 p.m. Singles Game Night/ROCK	18 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. High No Limits 8:15 p.m. Home Group Leaders Mtg. April 18-20 CPC Volunteer Training	19 5:00 p.m. Puppets to Urban Edge Min. 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	20	21 RESCHEDULED: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. IBC Women's Winter Warm Up, Prairie Lakes Church, Cedar Falls
22 8:40 a.m. Prayer Nurse Office Open After a.m.-No Limits SS MX — Azteca Noon —Potluck and Annual Meeting 3:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Jr. Pup./RODS 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home	23 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery April 23-25 CPC Volunteer Training	24 9:00-10:00 a.m. Moms-In-Touch/Library 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles/dekers	25 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. High No Limits	26 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 7:00 p.m. Missions Meeting	27 7:00 p.m. Trivia Night/ROCK	28 6:00 p.m. Girls Night Out
29 8:40 a.m. Prayer 3:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Jr. Pup./RODS 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	30 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery					

April Birthdays:

1 Joe McElhiney
Don Abington
Lindsay Holst
John Hawley

2 Jani Hoerner

3 Lynn Seline

6 Megan Hart

7 Barb Conner
John Arter

8 Megan VanDyke
Kathryn Gainer
Stephen McElhiney

10 Sheri Wilford
Mike Becraft

11 Pete Bibens
Dawnetta Van Ee

14 Roger Payton
Evan Grimme

15 Dylan Wheeler

16 Tammy Bullock
Andy Osterberg

17 Jenny Ferrel

18 John Schwarz
Jordan Kaiser
Isaac Holst

April Anniversaries:

1 Jason and Mickey Owens

12 Richard and Lee Swanson

22 Mark and Lora Youmans

25 Lou and Debbie Aisenbrey
Tim and Brandy Schneckloth

19 Sally Howell
Ariana Payton
Barb Montgomery

20 George Rae Arndt

21 Nicole Arndt
Rick Heppe
Chris Noel

22 Linda Jorgensen

23 Alexa Hurr
Melissa Chapman

24 Larry Crotty

25 Alexander Owens

27 Luke Major

28 Corbyn Heppe

29 Molly Kirby
Jackson Trotter
Brittany Bullock

30 Jordan Bennett

Am I Generous?

By Andrea Ideker

I read this article recently in the March '07 BGC World and thought it was so good, I wanted to pass some of it on. The author, Don Windmiller is BGC Director of Church Relations.

God values generosity. In response to redemption's story — God's grace poured out for us — we learn to “excel in the grace of giving.” (2 Cor. 8:7)

American Christians control 70 percent of the world's Christian wealth. Yet the average American Christian gives 2.6 percent of his or her income to the church. Ninety-six percent of American Christians give away less than 10 percent of their income.

Generosity is responding to the grace of God for the good of people so that God gets the glory. Through the Macedonian believers in 2 Corinthians 8 we discover a biblical model for generosity.

First, the Macedonians modeled generosity as the life of a disciple. At time of personal poverty and persecution, they responded to the grace of God in their lives. Biblical generosity was practiced regardless of circumstances. Their contentment was not in their circumstances but in the joy they discovered through God's grace in their lives. Their lifestyle revealed that God was their first priority. Their heart was in the right place in order to give because their treasure was in the right place. Their treasure was Christ and His grace.



The second characteristic the Macedonians modeled was generosity as a heart of compassion. God will bring the needy into our lives (1 John 3:17-18). We need to have a Spirit-led sensitivity and respond. Generosity can express itself in many ways. God looks at the heart, not the hand. It's not the size of the gift that counts, but the heart poured out in loving gratitude for His grace. (2 Cor. 8:12)

The third characteristic of generosity the Macedonians modeled was an enduring testimony. They were not looking for recognition as they shared in the need of the Jerusalem church, but simply did what came naturally from a grateful heart toward the grace of God in their lives. Their testimony of God's grace endured beyond their own trials to the true value of life. They reflected the glory of God in thanksgiving through their loving actions to others. (2 Cor. 9:12-13)

Generosity is not just an action: it is a lifestyle of the disciple responding the grace of God. Its value is that it pleases God (Phil 4:18), refreshes our walk (Prov. 11:25) and is an investment for eternity (1 Tim. 6:18-19).

Our treasure is where we invest our lives and resources. How do we solve the problem of a heart being in the wrong place? Give right now, placing your heart where God would direct. Ask: “If I were the person God wants me to be, what would I begin to do right now with the life and resources God has entrusted to me? Seeking God, begin in some way right now...and watch God begin to make you into that person.

Men's softball team now forming...



We joined the Trinity Lutheran church softball league — there are 14 churches currently registered. Games start in early May, and we'll play one game a week on either Tuesday or Thursday or Friday at either 5:30 or 6:45. A Saturday morning game is a possibility for rain-outs. We'll play 13 games and close the season with a double elimination tournament.

The costs to participate are \$25. There is playground equipment available for the kids to play on and many families

make a picnic out of the event. The softball diamond is located behind Assumption High School.

A church softball league is a non-threatening way to introduce another man and his family to our church. If that situation is applicable please let us know so we can plug him in.

Please contact Nick Hansel (285-5530) or Kevin Hagedorn (285-7066) to sign up. Space is limited so we'll work with a first come first serve basis.

“Creation Investigation”

Postponed to April 1, 2007

Sunday night, April 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the ROCK Center join the HUGs Puppet Team and the HOT RODS Dowel Rod team as we present the musical “**Creation Investigation**.” Join Private Detective Gus Gumshoe as his client, Eve, presents her troubling question: Where did she come from?

This musical leads you through the investigation as they examine the evidence of creation. Jimmy the Squealer gets involved as they hit the city streets for more clues. Six fun songs alone with some great humor helps Eve conclude God is the Master Designer.

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Box 54
Eldridge, IA 52748

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www.cornerstonebaptistch.org

Family News

CONGRATULATIONS to Steve and Marianna VonMuenster on the birth of their first child, Annabella Marie, born on March 27th. She weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21" long.

NEW MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH:

Laura Goltry joined us on March 18, 2007

A Great Big Thank You!!

Thank you so much to all who helped host the Bethel College Choir on March 24th. Special thanks to Jim Ferrel and the Worship Team for tearing down and setting up. Thanks for understanding our craziness!!!

Theresa Phillips & Gail Welchman

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: A Deacon Confirmation vote will be held on Sunday, April 15th. 2007-08 Deacon Candidates are Brent Bullock, Stan Howell and Jim McGimpsey.
Please be sure to see Sally in the foyer to vote.



Come and join us on Sunday Mornings:

Sunday School Opportunities	
for the Family	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:10 a.m.