

FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

Vol. 16 Issue 7

February 21, 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Teachers Needed...	2
The Messiah in the Pass-over...	
Current Prayer Concerns...	
Turkey Trip Registration...	
Thank You....	
Support "Hands of Grace"...	3
New Sermon Series...	
Thank You Note...	
Annual Report. Availa-	
Youth News..	4
Starting Pt. Luncheon...	
It's a Girl!	
Pie Auction Coming...	
Save the Date...	

Faith Alliance Church
6670 Knoxville Ave.
New Bremen, OH 45869
419-629-3688

Website: www.faith-alliance.org
Church Staff

Tom Sager, Senior Pastor
tom@faith-alliance.org
Trent Fledderjohann,
Senior Associate Pastor
trent@faith-alliance.org
James Lampert, Youth Pastor
james@faith-alliance.org
David Wray, Missions Pastor
dave@faith-alliance.org
Gina Tangeman, Children's Director
gina@faith-alliance.org
Kristin Lampert, Pre-School Director
kristin@faith-alliance.org
Marty Tangeman, Office Manager
marty@faith-alliance.org
Heidi Siebenaler, Care Coordinator
heidi@faith-alliance.org

WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

"Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1:15-16)

The issue of holiness, interestingly, has been debated with great vigor and considerable disagreement within the life of the Church. What is holiness, and is it achievable? Is it merely positional (God sees us as holy) or is it also practical (we are called to actually live holy lives)? Let's think a bit about the experience of holiness.

First of all, in the purest sense, only God Himself is holy. The word means that He is set apart from all other beings by his divine attributes and moral perfection. When Isaiah had his vision of heaven (Isaiah 6), the heavenly beings were calling out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." Several times in the Old Testament we read the declaration, "There is none like you!" This is another way of saying that God is holy.

The questions of debate, however, usually center around how human beings experience holiness. There is general agreement among Christians that we experience "positional" holiness. That is, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and declared acceptable to God. This is called "justification," which means to be declared OK in God's eyes. In justifi-

cation, we are spiritually placed "in Christ," and we are given the righteousness of Christ. We often express this idea this way: "When God looks at us, He sees us in Christ," or sometimes we say, "We are covered with the blood of Jesus."

This leaves us with the question, "Do we actually become holy, or does God just consider us as holy?" Some respond, "Yes, He gives us a holy heart." We are made spiritually holy – cleansed of sin through sanctification—and we stand clean before the Lord. 1 John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." This implies that God actually takes away our sin and puts His righteousness within us. It is always His righteousness, however; never our own.

One more question remains: can we ever be made "holy" in lifestyle, or are we doomed to a spiritual duplicity that says we are holy on the inside but we should never expect to be made holy on the outside? This is the issue of *practical* holiness. We might call this "obedience" as well. The holy lifestyle is about living in obedience to Christ's teachings—pursuing those things that further God's will and purpose in our lives, and forsaking those things that hinder God's will and purpose. Through what we in the Alliance call "progressive" sanctification, I believe that

(Continued on page 2)

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

(Continued from page 1...)

over time the Lord brings our lifestyle into greater and greater conformity to His will. He actually enables us to express the holiness that He has put within us in our outward behavior.

Don't be content to simply be "considered" holy. Don't assume that your life will be one of continual contradiction: holy on the inside and sinful on the outside. Invite the Lord to fill you with His Spirit on a daily basis so that you can actually *live* in obedience!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom



Help Needed...

I am in need of a kindergarten and 1st grade teacher for April and June and a 4th and 5th grade teacher for May. Material is provided...usually we have about 6-8 kindergarten and 1st graders and about 10-12 4th and 5th graders. If you are available to do any of the months, please let me know soon...email (gina@faith-alliance.org) or call/text me (567-644-9313).

Thanks for your help!

Gina

The Messiah in the Passover...

Stacey Trobman, missionary to Israel, will be with us on Wednesday evening, March 9, to present "The Messiah in the Passover." In this program, she will demonstrate the elements of the Jewish Passover meal, and explain how the symbols of this meal relate to Jesus Christ, our Messiah. This experience will give you a greater appreciation for the sacrifice of Christ as well as a greater understanding of Holy Communion.

The evening will begin with a sandwich-soup-salad meal as usual at 5:30 p.m., and we will gather in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. for the program. Please join us!

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Praise: Erin Zimpfer's test results were benign
- Liz Fenters, being diagnosed for lung disease
- Jay Berkey, cancer has returned, awaiting consultation with neurologist
- Rev. Don Dillavou, Alliance pastor in Hamilton, OH, quadruple bypass surgery this week
- Kitty Aragon, Ron's wife, hiatal hernia
- Virginia Gilbright, friend of Tracy Shelton, recovering from stroke
- Cierra Otting, now in Libreville, Gabon, for six months
- Stephanie Fledderjohann, Pastor Trent's wife, due to deliver this week
- Jim and Eileen Wessel, health concerns
- Robin Holcomb, Lavonna Springer's mother, back in hospital with double pneumonia
- Kathleen Keller, Erin Zimpfer's mother, recovering from stroke, now in rehab
- Mitchell Nutt, recovering from back surgery
- Chris Bowers, undergoing chemotherapy
- Brent Paulus, on-going illness

Turkey Trip Registration...

Once again this year we will be sending a mission team to Turkey to assist the Tea House ministry team during their annual retreat. Our team, led by Jodi Shimp, will staff a Vacation Bible School for the children of the missionaries, as well as interact with the team. Dates for this trip are June 15-23. Registration deadline is February 29. Please speak with Jodi, 419-733-9909, for more information.

Thank You...



Thanks to everyone who joined us for the spaghetti dinner last Sunday! We received \$600 in donations for our Gabon Mission trip. We appreciate your support and generosity.

— Pastor Dave

Support for “Hands of Grace” Sewing Ministry...

Ann Hager and Vicki Quellhorst have teamed together to make hot bowl hot pads. These are the perfectly shaped fabric bowls for keeping your hands from being scorched when reheating leftovers in the microwave. They are also good for passing larger hot bowls at the table or keeping bread warm. The proceeds from the sale will help support training classes for the Hands of Grace Sewing Ministry (Gabon). The fabric bowls will be on display for purchase or to order on Sunday, February 28 after each service. The prices are: Small—\$12; Medium—\$15; Large—\$18 and Extra Large—\$20.



New Sermon Series...

Pastor Tom will begin a series of messages on the cross of Christ next Sunday. These messages will explore how the sacrifice of Christ benefits us. This series will continue through Palm Sunday.

On March 13, Pastor Trent will preach the third message in his Fourfold Gospel series. This message will be, “Christ our Healer.”

Thank You Note...

Dear Faith Family,

I want to thank all of you for praying for me and my family during my recent heart surgery. Being bathed in prayer is not a new thing for my family but it was new for me personally. It is a life-changing experience and very humbling. I credit my good outcome to your prayers, great doctors and ultimately our Healer Jesus Christ. A special thank you for those who made the trip to Cleveland to be with us during and after the surgery.

God Bless,

Ted Wagner

Financial Report

Offering February 14, 2016

General Fund: \$22,847

Local Mission: \$719

Great Commission: \$440

Care Fund: \$2,000; Building Fund: \$28

Love & Hope Envelopes: \$306

Julie Schwieterman Mission Trip: \$5

Gabon Mission Trip: \$10

Tea House: \$10; E4 Project: \$50

Church Grounds Keeping: \$1,000

Attendance

Week of February 14, 2016

9:00 Worship – 79

10:30 Worship – 109

Kids – 50 ; Adult Workers – 12

Youth Discipleship – 5

Total Worship – 255

International Class – 7

Wednesday Night Live!

JOURNEY – 30

CONNECT – 8

Kids – 28; Adult workers – 6

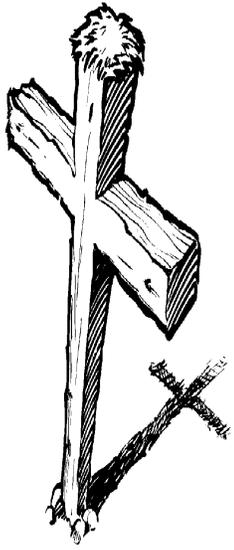
Youth Group – 38 students; 3 adults

Annual Report 2015 Available in Foyer...

This year’s Annual Report asks ministry leaders to respond to one question: What have you been most excited about in your ministry this year? Reading these responses will encourage you in your faith as we celebrate what God has been doing among us. These reports are now available for pick up in the foyer.



RENEW



Sunday, February 21, 2016

Today

- 9:00... Early Service
- 9:00... Discipleship Class
- 10:30... Late Service
- 10:30... Kids Church
- 12:00... Arizona Mission Mtg.

This Week

- Wednesday...Youth Group...6-8:30 pm
- Friday...Dodgeball Fundraiser...7 pm

MINISTRIES

COMING EVENTS

- Feb. 26 ...Dodgeball Fundraiser
- Mar. 11-12 ...Youth Lock-In
- Mar. 13 ...Pie Auction



Luncheon for New Attenders...

We will be offering our "Starting Point" luncheon on Sunday, February 28, following the second service. "Starting Point" is an informal lunch that provides information about our mission and program to persons who are relatively new to the church. You'll meet some new friends over lunch, and then each staff person will share the highlights of their ministry area. Please call the church office, 419-629-3688, to make a reservation. Kids and teens are welcome!



It's a Girl...

We extend our congratulations to Dan and Jen Schulze on the birth of daughter, Rebecca Grace, on Tuesday, February 16. Rebecca weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Both Mom and baby are doing well. Rebecca was welcomed home by big brother Caleb. Happy grandparents are John and Patty Schulze. Congratulations to the whole family on this blessed event!

Annual Pie Auction Coming...

Our annual chili luncheon and pie auction, which raises funds for our mission trips, will be held on Sunday, March 13, following the second service. Watch this newsletter for more details, but for now mark the date and plan to be with us. This is the most fun you'll ever have spending your money!



Save the Date!

Do you like to scrapbook, make cards, spend time with others while crafting? We have an opportunity for you while adding to Cierra Otting's mission fund! On March 19 we will be crafting in the Fellowship Hall. For \$20 you will get your own table, lunch, snacks, and pleasant company and fellowship. All monies are being donated to Cierra. Mark your calendar now. Sponsored by HOPE Ministry. More info to come.

