

# FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

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## WELCOME TO FAITH!

### From Pastor Tom's Desk...

Thomas Oden has written, "Sin dug a gulf in a relationship. The cross bridged it. Sin resulted in estrangement. The cross reconciled it. Sin made war. The cross made peace. Sin broke fellowship. The cross repaired and restored it."

The cross is the central point of history. The gospels show us that Jesus' entire earthly life revolved around the cross. It was the reason he came to earth. It was the highlight of divine love. It was, ironically, the victory of righteousness over sin.

Dr. Odgen's statement helps us understand the significance of the cross of Christ. Sin (our rebellion and self-gratification) separated us from God, who cannot fellowship with sin. This created a huge relational chasm between us and our Creator. The cross of Christ bridged that gap and made it possible to connect with God again.

Sin produced estrangement. In other words, it caused us to become alienated from God; we became strangers to God. The cross made reconciliation possible. It overcame our estrangement and restored our relationship with God.

Sin made war. Sin, by definition, is fighting against God. It is rebellion against God. This rebellion is usually expressed as self-centeredness or even self-gratification. But the rebellion that plagues us is really resistance to God's

will. We would rather run our own lives; do what we want rather than what God wants. Through the cross, we find peace with God. We give up our rebellion.

Sin robbed us of God's presence. Even though we were created for friendship with God, our sin undermined our relationship with Him. We found ourselves feeling lonely and wondering whether God really exists. The cross brought us back into relationship with God. We experienced a sense of relief and joy, just as two friends might discover when they apologize to each other.

The world has a hard time understanding the importance of the cross, because it doesn't fit with their value system. In 1 Corinthians, Paul said, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1:18).

Our Christian faith and discipleship is centered in the cross. It was there that Christ paid the price for our sin, so that we could be forgiven and reconciled to God. Resist the temptation to allow your faith to become a set of religious rules and practices. Remember that Christian faith is always about relationship with Jesus Christ, who died for you so that you could become friends with God.

The cross is the supreme example of God's love and grace. It evokes gratitude

*(Continued on page 2)*

### From Pastor Tom's Desk...

*(Continued from page 1...)*

from us. It calls us to personal sacrifice. It instills divine love in us. We are people of the cross! May we never forget the magnitude of what Christ did there!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

### Annual Pie Auction...

Our 5th Annual Chili Luncheon and Pie Auction will be held on Sunday, March 13, following the second service. We'll share lunch together, followed by the auction. All proceeds will go to our Mission Trip Fund and our LIFE Youth Conference Fund.



You can help in several ways: (1) Donate a pot of chili for the luncheon. (2) Donate pies for the auction. (3) Bid on pies at the auction. Please visit the sign-up sheets in the main foyer or speak with Pastor Dave if you can donate chili or pies. Then join us on the 13th for a great time!

### 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: Robin Holcomb is doing better
- Praise: Kitty Aragon is doing better as well
- Liz Fenters, awaiting word from The James Center
- Jay Berkey, cancer has returned, awaiting consultation with neurologist
- Pam Sager, cataract surgery on Thursday, March 3
- Rev. Don Dillavou, Alliance pastor in Hamilton, OH, quadruple bypass surgery last week
- Cierra Otting, now in Libreville, Gabon, for six months
- Vicki Quellhorst, leaves for Gabon on Monday, Feb. 29
- Jim and Eileen Wessel, health concerns
- Kathleen Keller, Erin Zimpfer's mother, recovering from stroke, now in rehab
- Mitchell Nutt, recovering from back surgery

### Great Commission Women to Meet on Wednesday, March 9...

After a two month absence, the Great Commission Women will resume their monthly meetings with the first meeting on March 9. (Note new date.) We will be honored to join the Wednesday Night Live group to hear missionary Stacey Trobman. Everyone will meet for supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Following supper we will go to the sanctuary where Stacey will give a Passover meal demonstration. What a wonderful opportunity to hear of Stacey's missions work and learn of the traditions of the Passover meal.

Please plan to attend this inspiring meeting and supper. This is an outstanding way to resume the meetings of the Great Commission Women. Looking forward to seeing all of you there. Our next meeting will be at the regular date which is April 12.

### 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.



Hands of Grace

### Jewelry Ministry...

Beaded jewelry made by Julie Schwieterman will be on sale in the foyer today. Proceeds will go to purchase supplies for the ladies' jewelry ministry in Gabon.

### Cram the Van...



Next Sunday, March 6, we will be collecting items for the Lima Rescue Mission. Suggested contributions are: drink mix, cereal, and dryer sheets. Please place your items in the van that will be parked in the front lot.

### Financial Report

Offering February 21, 2016

General Fund: \$8,358

Local Mission: \$274

Great Commission: \$593

Care Fund: \$20; Building Fund: \$95

Love & Hope Envelopes: \$20

Gabon Mission Trip: \$100

Tea House: \$10; Hope House 25

Kitchen Fund: \$10; Youth Center: \$10

### Attendance

Week of February 21, 2016

9:00 Worship – 78

10:30 Worship – 153

Kids – 53 ; Adult Workers – 14

Youth Discipleship – 6

Total Worship – 304

International Class – 10

Wednesday Night Live!

JOURNEY – 31

CONNECT – 8

Kids – 32; Adult workers – 4

Youth Group – 31 students; 2 adults

### Lenten Calendar...



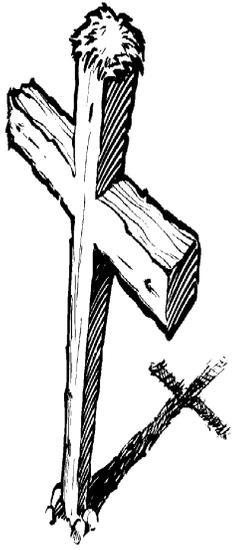
March 9—The Messiah in the Passover service, with Stacey Trobman, 6:45 p.m.

March 20—Community Palm Sunday Service at Holy Redeemer, 7:00 p.m.; community choir

March 24—Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Faith, 7:00 p.m.

March 27—Combined Easter Worship. Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.; Worship at 10:00 a.m.

## RENEW



Sunday, February 28, 2016

### Today

- 9:00... Early Service
- 9:00... Discipleship Class
- 9:00... CONNECT
- 10:30... Kids Church
- 10:30... Late Service

## COMING EVENTS

Mar. 11-12 ...Youth Lock-In

10 pm—7 am @ Yth Ctr 

Mar. 13 ...Chili Luncheon/Pie Auction

Following 2nd service @ 12 pm

Mar. 27 ...Easter Breakfast @ 9 am

## MINISTRIES



### This Week

Wednesday...Youth Group...6-8:30 pm



### Crafting for Cierra!

Join us for a Saturday of scrapbooking on March 19 from 9 to 6. For \$20 each crafter will get her own table, lunch and snacks. Please remit money and registration to the church office or Shelly Finke by March 10. A second session will be held April 30. Hope you can join us. All monies will be going directly to Cierra Otting for her time in Africa. Sponsored by HOPE Ministry.



### 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](mailto:gina@faith-alliance.org)) or call/text me (567-644-9313).



Thanks for your help!

Gina

### HOPE Ministry News...

Anyone interested in visiting residents at St. Marys Living Center on March 7 should meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool. All are welcome.



## March Celebrations...

### Happy Birthday to...

- 1—Jennifer Bear, Roxann Cedarleaf
- 2—Kathie Luedeke, Mike Paulus
- 4—Tom Millhouse, Miranda Paulus, Brian Sprague
- 5—Dana Heitkamp
- 7—Alan Fenters
- 8—Gabi Heckman, Lydia Heckman
- 11—Caitlin Pence
- 12—Jeff Fyock, John M. Schulze
- 16—Pat Ferguson, Fred Moeller
- 17—Shaylee Boyle
- 18—Jill Puthoff
- 20—Richard Ball, Jean Henschen, Jamie Lampert, LaVonna Springer
- 21—Dawn Goodwin
- 22—LaRita Condon, Mason Kuck

- 23—Erin Zimpfer
- 25—Heather Kuck
- 26—Elizabeth Lange
- 27—Elizabeth Alt, Barney Gruebmeier,  
Madeline Nutt
- 29—Mike Blaine, Jean Harmon

### Happy Anniversary to...

- 1—Henry & Rose Sager
- 14—Jim & Elaine Lampert
- 15—Jim & Becca Kuether
- 19—Dave & Terri Dicke

## Meet for Lunch...

Please join the women of Faith Alliance for lunch after the second service on March 6 at Casa Lupita. All women are welcome.

## Wayne St. UMC Lenten Breakfast...



You are invited to a Lenten Breakfast at Wayne St. UMC in St. Marys on Saturday, March 12, at 9:30 a.m. Singer/songwriter Hannah Beck will be the guest speaker. No reservations are required and admission is free.

## New Address...

Dan and Jen Schulze have a new address. If you would like to send them a card to celebrate the birth of their new daughter, Rebecca, please mail to:

405 Hall Avenue  
Sidney, OH 45365

## Lent is a time for repentance...

Repentance is the process by which we see ourselves, day by day, as we really are: sinful, needy, dependent people. It is the process by which we see God as He is: awesome, majestic and holy.

— Charles Colson