

Just The Florence Alliance Church Tidings

March-April, 2016

Volume 3, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

March 19th

Workday

March 25th

Good Friday Service

March 27th

Easter Sunday

April 2nd

Teen Sponsored Game Day

April 22nd

Ladies' Pizza & a Movie

April 24th

Course and Instructor Appreciation Dinner

May 13th

NKU Planetarium

June 4th

Men's Breakfast

June 13-17

VBS

July 5-10

Teen Life 2016

July 15th

Ladies' Christmas in July

July 18-23

Camp Begoni

July 30th

International Friendship Dinner

August 6th

Men's Breakfast

Ladies' Day Out

August 20th

Cincinnati Reds

August 21st

Ministry Fair

September 18th

Back to Church Sunday

Pastor's Corner

Christ Is Our Sanctifier

The Christian & Missionary is a Christ-centered movement of God. The centrality of Jesus to our life and identity is expressed by our commitment to the proclamation of the Four-Fold Gospel. Christ is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. Today we will discuss Christ our Sanctifier.

The term sanctification means to set apart. It refers to the act of God that sets one apart from sin and to God. Each believer is in some sense set apart for God at the moment of salvation (1 Cor. 1:2). At the moment of salvation the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, his or her heart is renewed and regenerated, and he or she becomes a new creation in Christ. This is initial sanctification.

This initial setting apart from sin and for God is normally followed by growth in grace. A new believer will probably recognize a new hunger for godly things. As she gives herself to spiritual pursuits, such as prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with other believers she will experience a growth in godly character. But as one walks the path of discipleship it often becomes evident that there is still something within the believer that resists the changes that have been brought about by the new birth. A person may recognize that though she or he has received Christ as savior and is changing there remains a rebellion within the heart that causes a struggle with

sin and temptation and quite often the believer is unsuccessful in the struggle.

This struggle is caused by what the Bible calls carnality or "the flesh." It is what characterizes a life apart from the grace of God and it fights for a place in the believer's life (Galatians 5:16-17). This struggle can be crippling to the spiritual life and if yielded to will bring about a life that looks a lot like the one you lived before you were a Christian. Notice that Paul calls the Corinthian believers carnal and then describes their life as characterized by such things as envy, strife and division (1 Cor. 3:1-3). Most believers come to a point in their spiritual life when they recognize that although they have been born-again there remains this struggle with carnality and they have the potential to fall into sin.

This realization is a good thing because it may prompt a crisis in one's Christian life. There is a choice to be made. Will I allow carnality to influence or even dominate my spiritual life or will I turn to Christ and seek His help in the battle? The good news for one who is struggling is that there is victory to be had in this struggle. God has not left us powerless in the face of it. Romans 7 & 8 show us the way forward. Paul describes the struggle with carnality or the flesh in Romans 7. It quite often leads to defeat (7:13-20). This is not the normal Christian life. Romans 8 provides the solution to this struggle.

continued on page 2

Easter Week

Good Friday

We will begin with a Good Friday service on Friday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. We will focus on the crucifixion of Christ.

Easter Sunday

Come celebrate our RISEN Lord!!! We will begin with a Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday. At 8:45 a.m. we will have a brunch followed by our worship service at 10:45 a.m.

Children's Ministry

Megan Hoover

We have general plans to update the old sanctuary to become more of a true children's area that we can make our own. We would like to take out the stage and closets, as well as painting and redecorating. If you have any ideas on ways to make this a reality or have talents that could assist us, please contact Megan Hoover. We would like to have this complete before VBS if possible.

Vacation Bible School is less than 4 months away on June 13-17 from 9 am-12 pm daily. And we are in need of YOUR help to make it a success!! Please look over the volunteer needs below and see if there are any areas where you might be interested in helping and let me know ASAP. If you do not have a specific job preference, but would still like to help out, please let me know that as well and we will find a job for you! Do not assume that I have you on the list just because you've helped out in years past...please let me know you are interested and able to help with VBS this year! There are several opportunities to serve even if you are unable to be there during the actual week of VBS. Any teen or adult (entering 7th grade and up) is welcome to be a volunteer. Please let Megan Hoover know where you would like to serve and also register online at www.vacationbibleschool.com/florencealliance. Make sure to register online to help with communication. Thanks for your willingness to serve!

Needed Volunteers: Publicity helper (postcards and door hangers), Registration, Decorations, Follow-up (after the week), Ice Cream Social, Playground Supervision (before and after), Custodians, Opening/closing skits (1 more person), Photographer, Video Presentation, Games

leader/helper, Service/Missions leader/helper, Bible Story helpers, Music helper, Science leader/helper, Group leaders/helpers

Also, please share our VBS with friends and family members! Registration is now open online at www.vacationbibleschool.com/florencealliance for children age 3 (and potty trained) to students entering grade 6. We welcome children with special needs as well!

Community Outreach

Gail Kirchner

One important lesson I learned over Christmas is that God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. The shepherds were as ordinary as they come. They had no great status. They had no special skills or qualifications. But they became unconventional evangelists, telling everyone of Christ's birth even though they didn't fully understand. They didn't have the whole story. They were only responsible to tell what they had seen and heard. God shows himself to people throughout the Scriptures. He doesn't ask for much- just to share with others what they had seen and heard. And just like in the scriptures, God is revealing himself to us. He is working in our lives. What are some of the extraordinary things you have witnessed? Not all miracles are Red Sea-parting sorts. But God is surely working. When God touches lives, how could anyone not respond by sharing what they have seen and heard? You don't have to know more than you know right now. God wants to use you today.

Coming in April: a new small group study series on how to generate spiritual conversations with friends and open the dialog to share how God is working in your life.

Pastor's Corner continued

Verses 3-4 state: For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. The death of Christ and the gift of the Spirit are God's solution. Romans 6:6 points out that the old way of life, that life of carnality was crucified with Christ so that the "body of sin" might be done away with. And the Holy Spirit is given so that we may have the power to overcome the flesh and live an obedient life to the glory of God. Read Romans 8 and notice how many times the Spirit is mentioned. Up until this point in Romans the Holy Spirit has been mentioned a handful of times. The Spirit-filled life is key to overcoming carnality.

Once one recognizes this struggle and the solution, it calls for action. We must first surrender our entire life and will to the Father (Romans 12:1-2). Then, because one recognizes that she or he is powerless to defeat carnality in one's life she must look to Christ. His death has affected the death of the old way of life. And His resurrection makes a new life possible. Therefore, an act of faith in Christ is called for as described by Paul in Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. In recognition that you are powerless to defeat carnality, call on Christ to fill you with His Spirit and cause you to walk in righteousness (Romans 8; esp. v. 4; Luke 11:9-13; Ezek 36:25-27). The Spirit-filled life is maintained and strengthened by abiding in Christ as described

in John 15:1-11. Maybe you have recognized your own struggle with sin. I encourage you to turn to Christ our Sanctifier. He is powerful enough and kind enough to give you the victory!

Missions

Renee' McKellogg

Even though FAC Missions Connection Week 2016 is over, it will take some time for all of us to resume the diets which were started on January 1, 2016. Our fellowship was definitely enriched by the variety of food brought to the International Potluck on Saturday evening. The "favorites" are requested year after year, along with new ones for our taste buds to try. Since Indian cuisine is definitely a huge favorite among many in our congregation, Dr. Pramod Aghamhkar had a large number of people join him and the Shutts for lunch at the Guru India restaurant after the worship service. Another crowd pleaser was the Men's Breakfast with Chefs Jim McKellogg and Brad Friend preparing a delicious breakfast that was worth attending on Saturday morning at 8:30. But the messages of how God is "Pushing Back the Darkness" in the 10/40 window by enabling our Alliance International Workers to "think outside the box" was just phenomenal. Even though there are a lot of terrorist activities, God is working in the hearts of Muslims to break down strongholds. One of the purposes of our Missions Connection Week was to increase our church's commitment to PRAY, GIVE, GO, AND SEND. Therefore, let us not grow weary in supporting those who have answered the call to "bring good news to those who have never heard". Please remember to pray for Dr. Pramod Aghamhkar and his wife Renjana as they minister in India during the month of March. They ministered for seven years there

before they saw their first convert. Now each time they return to India there are huge numbers of people who want to be baptized.

Also please pray for our International workers in creative access countries.

In conclusion, I want to extend a SPECIAL THANKS to the MISSIONS WEEK PLANNING COMMITTEE for all of their contributions to make MISSIONS CONNECTION WEEK A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!!!!

Ministry Updates

Youth Ministry

Daniel Naas

Hello again from the Florence Alliance Youth Group. For the past few weeks we have been learning about wisdom. "In light of my past experiences, my current circumstances, and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing for me to do?" This has been the main question asked every week regarding wisdom.

We are getting closer to the Alliance Youth LIFE 2016 conference. LIFE 2016 will be held in Kansas City, MO from July 5-9. We are sending 6 youth and 3 adults. With the registrations, hotels, travel expenses, food, and miscellaneous costs we estimate it will cost about \$6,500. With deposits and fundraisers we have raised about \$1,200.

There will be a Youth Fundraiser Game day on April 2nd. From 10:00am - 8:00pm there will be massive amounts of board games available to play. Non stop board gaming... unless you need a moment to bask in the awesomeness your win. A general ticket will cost \$20 for the day, and that includes a \$10 food voucher. A child general ticket (ages 8-12) is \$10 and includes a hot dog and a drink. Children 7 and under are

free, but must be supervised by a parent or guardian. The Youth Game Day will be a lot of fun. We will be looking for some people to help prep and donate. Also please put it on your calendars. April 2nd.... April 2nd. April 2, 2016!

Any questions just contact Daniel, Erica, or Josh. Come to youth group. It's awesome!

Women's Ministry

Brenda Friend

March brings Easter! As we approach this wonderful celebration of the Risen Lord lets reflect on the story. Luke 22:39 begins with the Prayer in the Garden and following thru chapter 24 Luke gives us an account of what transpired all the way to the Ascension. I want to encourage you to prayerfully read and meditate on this. Without the death and resurrection we would not be able to have eternal life. Our Ladies' Pinterest Party was held on March 12th with 24 in attendance. We had five visitors. Everyone had a great time and we will plan to do another one in the future. Check out the photos on the website and on Facebook!

On March 27th we will celebrate our Risen Lord. Easter Brunch will follow the Sunrise Service.

April brings spring and lots of activity. We will host a ladies' pizza and movie night on April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Bring your friends!!! Mark your calendars!

Men's Ministry

Brad Friend

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Our Men's Discipleship will continue each Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m.

On Saturday, March 5th eight of our men attended the showing of the "National Parks Adventure" at the OMNIMAX Theater located at the Cincinnati Museum Center. They also were able to go up to Tower A (the old control tower for the rail yard). A great time was had by all.

Small Groups

Billy Bussell

Life Group/Small group ministry has started again for this semester with five groups meeting regularly. Two of the groups are home groups that are a continuation from last semester, two are Sunday morning groups that meet during the time when Sunday School used to meet and the fifth is a new group focused on our "Below 40 but more than 18" year old crowd. More about that group in a minute.

The groups and their times are as follows:

1. "The Book of Daniel" led by Jim McKellogg and meeting at the Friend's home, Wednesdays at 6:30.
2. "Book by Book: Acts of the Apostles" led by Pastor Shutt and meeting at Lyneva Cimaglio's home Wednesdays at 6:30.
3. Sunday Morning Adult class, led by Billy Bussell, meets at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Currently studying James.
4. Sunday Morning youth, Led by Rick Kirchner, meets 9:30 upstairs in one of the classrooms.

5. The young(age 40 down to 18) adult/single/career/college student/married/unmarried group will start meeting on Fridays at 6:30 in the fellowship hall of the church. In the event the day is not convenient, it will change to Thursdays. We will be going through a video series "Not a Fan", based on the book written by Kyle Idleman (teaching pastor at Southeast Christian in Louisville).

As the year progresses, I would love to see others who have not been involved in Life Groups in the past join up with a group. I would also like to see people who have not led groups at least consider leading in the very near future, either existing groups or leading a new group. I can provide you with more information and plan on providing brief training to those interested in leading.

If you have any questions of any type regarding this ministry, please feel free to contact me by phone or email or text. (Phone or text is the quickest way to get a response!) My number is (859) 547-8741. Best email is billybussell53@gmail.com. Thank you all!!!!

A Note from the Elders

Jim McKellogg

To military minds, victory and surrender are incompatible. Surrender is synonymous with defeat. Any general will tell you that you don't win battles by laying down your arms and

waving the white flag. In World War II, the Japanese considered surrender to be so shameful and dishonorable that many of them committed suicide, rather than give in to Allied forces; and they disrespected any enemy who capitulated and took what they regarded as the coward's way out.

In the realm of spiritual warfare, however, surrender is not only honorable; it's the key to victory. When we finally acknowledge that we are unable to fight our battles against sin in our own strength and surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit, we experience a victory that cannot be found in any other way.

Of course, our surrender must be complete and unconditional. If we are reluctant to yield any aspect of the battle or area of our lives to the Lord, consistent victory over sin will continue to elude us. Let's ask God to give us the strength and the faith to surrender the entire fight to Him.