

# THE NEWSLETTER

*A Ministry of Cornerstone Fellowship of Coatesville Pennsylvania*

*The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor  
Mr. Peter E. Jensen, Assistant Pastor of Youth Ministries & Group Life*

610-384-1375 or 610-384-1216  
610-384-6757 (fax)  
email: fbccoatpa@aol.com  
www.cornerstonefellowship1.org

VOLUME 35, Number 3

MARCH 2016

## EASTER EVENTS

### Sunday, March 20 - PALM SUNDAY

Services at 8:15 and 10:45am  
Bible classes at 9:30am

### Thursday, March 24 - Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service at 7pm

### Saturday, March 26 - EASTER EGG HUNT

Hunt begins at 11am, SHARP!!!!!!

Children up to grade 5 are invited to come and hunt for Easter Eggs

### Sunday, March 27 - EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service - 6am  
Worship services at 8:15 and 10:45am  
Bible classes at 9:30am

#### **CAN WE ALWAYS TRUST GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD?**

Have people ever let you down? That question belongs in the same category as: Is water wet? But what about this question: Has *GOD* ever let you down? Be careful! Before you answer, let's put it another way. Have you ever felt that God didn't keep His word? Have you wondered – even complained – that He didn't come through in the way you thought he should?

We know that God has promised to protect and care for His children. He has promised to make us strong, to fill our hearts with joy, and to give us peace. God has promised to answer our prayers. Yet at times those promises seem empty. Our prayers for a rebellious child seem to go unanswered. Inflation and bills gnaw away at our paycheck. Someone close to us dies of cancer. Neighborhood crime gets worse. Terrorists plague the world. And Jesus hasn't

returned to make things right. Joy and peace seem like dreams.

The Bible tells us, "The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does" (Psalm 145:13). What happened to all the promises God has made? Perhaps we've misunderstood. Or maybe we're just expecting too much.

While we try to figure out how God is going to answer a prayer or fulfill His promises, He is calmly and powerfully working out His plans behind the scenes and in ways and for reasons that we may not comprehend. It should not surprise us that in Isaiah 55, the Lord described our inability to understand His methods: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD, 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my

thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Although His reasons may elude us, and His methods may surprise us, God always fulfills His promises. As the apostle Paul said, “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and weakness of God is stronger than human strength.” (1 Corinthians 1:25).

So... **CAN WE ALWAYS TRUST GOD TO KEEP HIS WORD?**

In one word ---- **YES!!!!!!!** So **KEEP TRUSTING!!!!!!**

Here’s the deal – We KNOW that GOD IS GOOD. But we don’t always like what that means. We don’t always understand what that means. It’s hard to understand why things happen. And it’s hard to have unresolved places in our lives. When we are struggling, God is OK with that, because some things remain a mystery. That’s when our faith kicks in – TRUSTING WHEN WE CANNOT SEE!! Because the blessing God wants to pour into our lives is better than the best thing we have ever experienced or can even imagine.

Won’t you resolve to TRUST GOD, even with the things that you hold dearest, and stop trying to protect what you cannot? When we have to control things we are proving that we DO NOT trust GOD to be faithful to His promises. But, His promises are true! He has never failed you yet. Why do we continue to act in unfaithfulness when God has something wonderful in store for His faithful children.

### COME, WHOEVER YOU ARE

They gather on the lush, rolling slopes to hear Him. He sits down, taking the customary position of a teacher, and looks as many of them in the eye as He can. He has so many things to tell them. A deep draw of breath then He begins to talk. “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him,” He says, “for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” If you’re anything like me, you’ve probably read the ‘God blesses’ statements that follow in the Sermon on the Mount – called the Beatitudes – as a list of virtues Jesus wants us to pursue. So, we think He wants us to be humble (Matthew 5:5), to hunger for justice (5:6), to be merciful (5:7), pure (5:8), and peace-loving (5:9). These are all wonderful qualities to have and are reinforced again and again in Scripture. And given that Jesus’ Sermon is all about action, it’s a natural way to read these verses.

However, if we are to be consistent in reading the Beatitudes this way, some of these ‘virtues’ become tricky. Does Jesus really want us to become poor (5:3), to mourn (5:4), or to be persecuted and insulted (5:10-11)? (Some think that to mourn is to mourn over our sins, which is a proper attitude, but not what the passage actually says.) This way of reading the Beatitudes can also lead to a works-based understanding of God’s salvation: only when we are humble, gentle, merciful, etc., will God then ‘bless’ us. Perhaps Jesus was making a different point. Luke’s recording of the Beatitudes suggests that Jesus wasn’t addressing people who thought they were poor, hungry or sad, but people who literally were (Luke 6:17-23). This,

then, leads us to believe that Jesus’ Beatitudes are not a list of virtues at all but a list of outcasts rejected by society but blessed by Jesus.

Those who assembled on the mountain to hear Jesus speak were a motley group indeed: not the happy and successful people of the world, but those who had experienced trials and trouble (Matthew 4:23-25). It was this group of people, those gathered before Him, that He blessed: the economically and spiritually impoverished (5:3), the grief-stricken (5:4), the lowly (5:5), those seeking but denied justice (5:6), ridiculed for being merciful or living rightly (5:7-8), peacemakers instead of political radicals (5:9), those persecuted for doing right or for following Jesus (5:10-11). All such people were ‘written off’ by both the secular society and religious elite of Jesus’ day. To worldly leaders who valued strength, not humility, and compliance to their wishes rather than rebellion for the sake of God, people with these qualities held little value. But they were valuable to Jesus.

If this is what Jesus is saying, it means His Sermon begins with a radical idea. It means Jesus ignores the world’s popularity lists. It means He welcomes all who society rejects. It means His invitation is extended to all, irrespective of popularity, education, social status or situation. The doors to His Kingdom are flung open to the sick, the sad, the un-pretty, the picked on, the beaten up, the socially awkward, the homeless; to pushers, dealers, murderers, molesters; to addicts and the mentally ill; to you and to me.

His invitation is – COME, WHOEVER YOU ARE! Jesus takes us all!

(What “written off” person do you know? Or better yet, who have you “written off” as unworthy of Jesus’ invitation? How can you be as graceful and merciful towards them as Jesus is?)

### WHAT SHOULD BE EVERY CHRISTIAN’S DEEPEST DESIRE?

God calls every believer to seek REVIVAL. This is something every Christian can pursue – for self, for family, for the church, and for our nation and world.

**First** – Pray that God would awaken YOUR heart to the things of God. Let change begin with you.

**Second** - Ask God to bring revival to your spouse, children and grandchildren

**Third** - Seek God’s renewal upon our congregation and everyone who attends our church as well as other churches across our nation

**Fourth** - Beg the Lord to bring revival to our country and around the globe.

What if we took time today and everyday to pray for our

nation. Would He intervene with a miracle? Could we expect His hand to point our families, churches and country to a spiritual awakening?

James 5:16 reminds us, "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." 2 Chronicles 7:14 adds, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Despite the seemingly endless, nearly insurmountable challenges of our lives and nation, there is One whose power transcends every fear. We often look to God when all else fails, yet He calls us to lean on Him through every storm – before, during, and after. Only He can fix what is broken, and He often chooses to bring forth His greatest changes in response to people who fight on their knees in prayer.

### THREE TRUTHS OF THE RESURRECTION

Where the Gospel according to Matthew ends, the Christian faith begins. It is the fantastic account of the resurrection of our Lord. It exhausts our capacity to imagine, and it pushes our reasoning ability to the breaking point. However, we don't have to explain the resurrection; it explains us. It establishes who we are and why we are part of Christ's church.

The story of Easter is so familiar that we sometimes fail to hear some of the details of the account. Therefore, let us look at three truths that are mentioned in Matthew's account of that first Easter Morning.

First, the stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out, but to let us in. The idea that God rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb to let Jesus escape is inconsistent with the post-resurrection appearances of our Lord. The Bible tells us that only a few hours after the resurrection the disciples were gathered behind closed doors and Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst. Closed doors never kept Jesus in or out.

Matthew makes this clear in the text. In his account of the resurrection, it was after Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had come to the tomb that "there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it."

For centuries the mind's eye of the curious has always wanted to look into the dark depths of death.

Easter rolls the stone door of the tomb away for us so that we might penetrate the mystery of death. Easter makes of the tomb a tunnel into the very heart of the eternal, and shows us that the holy heart of God is love and life. God rolls the stone away not to let Jesus out but to let us in.

The second truth is that the tomb of death was not

empty. True, Christ's body was not there, but the tomb was not empty; rather, it was filled with the words of the angel of the Lord, "He is not here; for he has risen."

If the women on that first Easter morning had looked into an empty and silent tomb, then, our resurrection faith would be a belief based on human speculation, an assumption, an argument based on negative evidence. But no! Our resurrection faith is based on a word spoken to us by God. It is based on God's holy promise and assurance.

That same word which echoed and re-echoed in that Easter tomb still fills the emptiness of our world today. "He is risen." The tomb has become a tunnel into the very heart of the eternal. The tomb has become a trumpet proclaiming the victory of life over death.

The third truth is that because of Easter we can turn our backs on the grave. Matthew tells us that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, having heard the angelic assurance, "He is risen," turned their backs on the grave and ran to tell the disciples that Christ had risen.

This means that you and I can now begin to live with the terror and the power of the grave behind us. Christ was buried, but he wouldn't stay dead.

The resurrection is a thermometer by which we can measure the fever of our faith and our freedom from the fear of death. The resurrection is a thermostat by which our God regulates our eternal destiny. Our God sets the thermostat on the highest degree so that we might be lifted up and share the new and glory-filled life with Christ. The resurrection is a barometer forecasting a future of good weather, fair skies and smooth sailing from this life into the next.

The stone was rolled away from the tomb not to let Jesus out but to let us in. The tomb is not the end; it is a tunnel to new beginnings. The tomb is not silent; it is a trumpet proclaiming the victory of life over death. Therefore, from this moment on we turn our backs on the grave and turn to face our future with faith and hope.

### OUR EASTER FAITH

"He is not here, but is risen." Luke 24:6

It is not Christianity that is on trial these days. It is atheism, paganism, and materialism that are being tried. And as always, they are found wanting. They are false. They are rotten at the core. They are doomed. Too long men and women have sought answers in the tombs of the sinful, the material, and the physical. They are not there.

Easter proclaims that the answer of man's search for salvation is in the living God as revealed in the risen Christ. Easter demonstrates that God is greater than sin, greater than evil, greater than death. Easter shows that our world is not old and dying but living and renewable. Easter tells us that nothing is inevitable or final save the will of God. Easter began a great endless stream of redemption by

which men may be saved from their sin. Easter calls the world to its knees in repentance and sends Christians forth to conquer. The open tomb and the risen Christ declare to mankind that the spirit of God cannot be imprisoned by the evil of men. In the ever-living Christ is the ever-living hope of the world.

EASTER is celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup> this year. We will begin the day with a Sunrise celebration (6 am), followed by our glorious Sunday Worship Celebrations (8:15 and 10:45 am) and Bible classes (9:30 am). **DON'T MISS IT! Invite someone to come with you.**

**HERE'S A TEST FOR YOU**

Identify the speaker of each quotation listed below. All quotes are from the King James Version of the Bible.

- 1 *A prophet is not without honor; save in his own country, and in his own house.*
- 2 *Where is the Lord God of Elijah?*
- 3 *But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*
- 4 *What is truth?*
- 5 *I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*
- 6 *To obey is better than sacrifice.*
- 7 *How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*
- 8 *Mine eyes have seen thy salvation... a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*
- 9 *Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.*
- 10 *Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

1- Jesus Christ (Matthew 13:57); 2- Elisha (2 Kings 2:14); 3- Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 4- Pontius Pilate (John 18:38); 5- Paul (Acts 20:27); 6- Samuel (1 Samuel 15:22); 7- Joseph, son of Jacob (Genesis 39:9); 8- Simeon (Luke 2:30,32); 9- Stephen (Acts 7:60); 10- Mordecai (Esther 4:14)

**CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?**

(In March 2009, Elizabeth Simonis was 21 weeks pregnant. With the exception of some common discomfort, she felt fine. On March 29 she went to bed around 11pm. She woke at 2am with excruciating pain in her lower abdomen. She never dreamed she would find herself and her unborn son facing death. Here are her own words... [reprinted from AFA Journal 2012])

"With our three-year-old daughter in tow, my husband and I arrived at an empty emergency room. The doctors realized I had fluid in my abdomen and assumed my appendix was rupturing. Having lost 2 liters of blood, the surgeon decided to wheel me into the operating room.

Instead of a ruptured appendix, my surgeon found a ruptured uterus. He biopsied some of the ruptured tissue before stitching up the finger-size hole he found in my uterus, likely caused by endometriosis. The surgeon told me I would probably go home in 3 or 4 days.

Two days later, the biopsy came back and the ruptured tissue was placenta...and I was diagnosed with a very rare and life-

threatening condition in which the placenta actually bores a hole through the wall of the uterus. But there was no medical record of a woman rupturing at 21 weeks. And, definitely, no favorable published outcomes. So I was sent to the Medical University of South Carolina and handed over to a team of doctors of obstetrics who treat high-risk cases.

After examining me thoroughly, my new doctor said, "First of all, you must understand that YOU are my patient; I must advise YOU for your well-being, and not that of the fetus."

Something about that didn't feel right, because from the moment I found out my son was inside me, my decisions ceased to be just about me. I thought about him when choosing what to eat or drink – would I really not consider his life in this critical moment?

The doctors gave me the option of going into surgery immediately, having a hysterectomy, and going home in 3 days, knowing that "the fetus" would not survive.

To this I responded, "Okay, what's Plan B? And... his name is Luke."

I later learned that there was no Plan B, and we began to press forward with a waiting game that was embedded in faith and trust in our Holy Father.

I had prayed for 18 months to conceive this child; I knew his life was from God. There was no doubt that I was going to do all in my power to protect him while he was inside me.

Under the care of a phenomenal medical team, I received steroid injections at 24 weeks to help Luke's lung development. I received a 12-hour magnesium drip, which greatly reduces the risk of cerebral palsy. I stayed on strict bed rest with 2 IVs in my arms at all times, just in case I began to rupture and bleed out quickly.

And I PRAYED – for my son, for myself, and for the family members who were helping us hold things together. But mostly I prayed prayers of thanksgiving.

Many mornings I would wake up and realize that I didn't die in my sleep, and be overwhelmed with tears at the magnitude of my situation. Then, the Lord challenged me with the discipline of simply counting my blessings. He knew all the "woes" I would pray about, and He reassured me that He was covering all of those. For my own well-being, He wanted me to tell Him all the things for which I was thankful. Suddenly, I had joy in that hospital room that had become my home for 4 weeks.

Then one morning my pain started to worsen again, but my vitals were strong. Weak vitals would have indicated another eruption. Still, the surgeon decided that I was probably tearing again, just not bleeding out. He wanted to take me back into the operating room, evaluate the situation and, if possible, stitch me up again in hopes of buying Luke some more time.

Wondering if the next few minutes would be the last of my son's life, or my life for that matter, I said good-bye to my husband and put my trust in my Savior.

It only took the surgeons a few minutes to decide to deliver Luke and remove my uterus. The hole had torn to the size of a tennis ball, much larger than the original fingertip-size hole. However, they were a bit baffled as to why I hadn't been bleeding. The medical team described my placenta as stuck to the abdomen

wall, with no uterus in between. I know Who was holding it there. Massive bleed out could and should have happened at any point.

On April 26, 2009 – 15 weeks before my due date – Luke Victor Simonis was delivered completely free from trauma, weighing 2 pounds, 1.2 ounces. I had a hysterectomy and healed just fine.

Luke spent 64 days in the NICU and came home at 34 weeks gestation. He was on the ventilator for only 24 hours, which astounded the NICU doctors and nurses.

He continues to amaze us, and I am overwhelmed when I try to imagine my life without him. When I first saw him, I was not prepared for how tiny, yet perfectly crafted, he was. Every day, I would remind myself, he just needs time – time to grow.

And, grow he did! Now, Luke is a rambunctious two-and-a-half-year-old who throws everything in sight, eats more than his six-year-old sister and loves to cuddle and read stories before bedtime.”

When asked why she decided not to terminate her pregnancy Elizabeth responded:

“Years earlier, a praying friend told us that he felt our second child - a son - would be very instrumental in the Kingdom of God. We held this word loosely, many times wondering about its meaning. At that moment of decision, it became apparent that this word was to give us strength and hope to believe that Luke was predestined for a greater purpose. We didn't know if he would survive, but we believed we could see the Kingdom of God growing around us as we had opportunities to share our faith. I was seeing his life make a difference, even before he was born.”

When asked, How did her decision to choose life for her son give others a glimpse of the gospel? Elizabeth responded:

“We were able to spend much time talking with and ministering to many of the nurses and hospital employees. I knew I was already experiencing Luke in action as an instrument for the kingdom, and what a blessing it was to see other people experience God's presence through our dire situation.

When asked how she had seen God receive glory through her trial? Elizabeth responded:

“Being able to share our story has given people hope to see what God can do. We were really transparent during the whole ordeal. People valued this because we gave them a look into our lives to see that we truly were struggling, but choosing to give God the glory no matter the outcome. Our transparency has been a vessel for God to receive the glory.”

When asked, What she would tell a mother who finds herself in a similar situation? Elizabeth responded:

“PRAY, PUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD, FIRST, and secondly in a strong team of medical professionals. Your child is worth the risk. Do all in your power to save his life. If your baby doesn't make it, grieve as you need, knowing that the Heavenly Father grieves with you. But, rest in knowing that you chose life for your child. In that decision, you can have no regrets.”

What more can be said!!!

One of the things that Elizabeth does as a result of her experience is she donates blood every 56 days since she and Luke were the recipients of multiple blood transfusions. Ever wonder whether the blood you donate makes a difference?

## BLOOD DRIVE

Start ironing up NOW!

## CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP WILL HOLD A BLOOD DRIVE ON Tuesday, March 15, 2016

TIME: 2-7pm

PLACE: 101 KYLIES ROAD

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!!! When Barb Finley asks you to make an appointment, please do so, or sign the schedule sheet. Ask a friend to come with you. If you are not able to give, please ask a friend, relative, or family member to give a unit. You can also schedule an appointment by going to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp> Enter the church's zip code(19320), select By Distance and Cornerstone's drive should come up.

## WHY GO TO CHURCH

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. “I've gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time, I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher.

“I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!” When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

## MY STRENGTH

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

1 Peter 5:7

*My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:19

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

John 14:27

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.*

Psalms 34:7

*Jesus said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness,”... That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Corinthians 12:9,10

*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

*The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; He is their stronghold in time of trouble. Psalm 37:39*  
*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6,7

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4*

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28*

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. Psalm 57:1*

*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3*

*The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*

Zephaniah 3:17

### DYING TO LIVE

The cross in Roman times was designed for death. It had no other use. So what did Jesus mean when He said that anyone who wants to follow Him must "take up his cross daily"? (Luke 9:23). He wasn't saying that we must all be physically crucified. The "cross" to which He was referring is the act of putting to death our own heart's desires and quietly submitting to God's will.

Such dying is denying our need for larger homes, more compliant children, more accommodating mates. It's putting up with misunderstanding, embarrassment, and loss of esteem. It's accepting our unchangeable circumstances. Missionary and poet Amy Carmichael, who knew much about pain and suffering, wrote, "In acceptance lieth peace."

Jesus said we must take up our cross daily. We are to rise each morning and cheerfully, bravely shoulder our load, because there is something else that is "daily." It is the continuous, sufficient grace of the One whose strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), and who will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He promises that through our dying He will make us more alive than ever before (1 Corinthians 15:53-57).

### PUSHING BACK THE DARKNESS

In a very real sense, we can summarize Jesus' work on earth in one word – **VICTORY**. He suffered in Gethsemane to push back the darkness we had brought on ourselves.

While Jesus was hanging on the cross, He must have looked like a loser – a battered and bloody victim. Although he spoke agonizing words from the cross, He did not come down when He was challenged to do so. He remained

nailed to a tree until the moment He died. He hung there as "the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). He had been tempted and tested in every conceivable way, "yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Through His sinless life and miracles, Jesus had shown His mastery over the devil and all the forces of evil. He had tied up "the strong man" (Matthew 12:29). Yes, the devil is still a powerful enemy and has not conceded defeat. So when we submit to God and resist the devil we can put him to flight (James 4:7).

Jesus' final utterances from the cross were the words of a conqueror. After 3 hours of darkness, He triumphantly cried out "It is finished." He knew He had suffered the desolation of hell and had emptied the cup of God's wrath against sin. He could now allow His spirit to depart from His body.

Paul declared that Jesus "canceled" the document that "was against us." Then he triumphantly added: "He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:13-15).

Having won the victory over Satan by paying sin's penalty on the cross, "it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him" (Acts 2:24). Death lost its "sting" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He entered triumphantly and took His place of universal exaltation. He lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25). We who have been reconciled to God by trusting Jesus are guaranteed full and ultimate salvation "through His life" (Romans 5:10).

We live in the interim between His ascension and His return. He is already reigning, but His rule is not yet fully manifested. One day every knee shall bow before Him and "every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11). We wait confidently for that day, knowing that Jesus is already triumphant.

### UPWARD CLOSING DAY GAMES

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Please continue to pray for the children and adults who are participating in the UPWARD basketball and cheerleading program this year. Our goal is that each child will experience the love of God as they are having fun learning their skills.

UPWARD's closing day Games and Celebration will be Saturday, March 19. There is still time for you to help with Upward 2016. Speak to Peter TODAY.

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make this season a GREAT SUCCESS!

### YOUTH NEWS

#### **DON'T FORGET!!**

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP** (grades 6-12) - WEDNESDAYS, 7-8:30

pm weekly (following the Mid-Week Worship Celebration)! Come and experience it! Bring your friends!!

**YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP** - THURSDAYS at 7pm (EVERY YOUTH is invited!)

**YOUTH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP** - for Jr & Sr High - 9:30 am Sunday mornings

Worship Celebrations - Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm

**PLEASE HELP US OUT!**

**EMPTY INKJET PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

Please donate your empty inkjet printer cartridges to the youth group to be recycled. A container is placed in the **coat room** to receive your donations. **KEEP THOSE CARTRIDGES COMING!** We appreciate every bit of help we receive.

**EVENTS:**

Saturday, February 27 - Raymond Lee Band Benefit Concert  
 Saturday, April 23 - OUTCRY (Hillsong, Jesus Culture, Elevation Worship and more) – Sign up NOW! \$35 per person

**CHILDREN'S NEWS**

**COOL KIDS** - Children, 4 years old up through grade 3 are invited to participate in COOL Kids on Sunday mornings at both the 8:15 and 10:45 celebration services. Following the praise time and the reading of scripture in the Worship Center, kids are dismissed to ROOM 108. COOL Kids (Children Of Our Lord Kids) helps kids learn to celebrate Christ in a way they enjoy and become excited about.

**EVENTS:**

Saturday, March 26 - EASTER EGG HUNT, 11am  
 Sunday-Thursday, June 26-30 - Vacation Bible School

**ECHOES OF MY HEART  
 CD RELEASE CONCERT**



Come to the church on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm to celebrate the release of KINDRED CROSS's newest CD, *Echoes of My Heart*.

Let's support Steve and the band by our prayers and attendance. It will be an uplifting and inspirational evening.

Invite your friends & family to join you here for this special treat!

**THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

**March**

- 1 Numbers 1 & 2; Psalm 42; Mark 14
- 2 Numbers 3 & 4; Psalm 43; Mark 15
- 3 Numbers 5 & 6; Psalm 44; Mark 16
- 4 Numbers 7 & 8; Psalm 45; Luke 1
- 5 Numbers 9 & 10; Psalm 46; Luke 2
- 6 Numbers 11 & 12
- 7 Numbers 13 & 14
- 8 Numbers 15 & 16; Psalm 47; Luke 3
- 9 Numbers 17 & 18; Psalm 48; Luke 4
- 10 Numbers 19 & 20; Psalm 49; Luke 5
- 11 Numbers 21 & 22; Psalm 50; Luke 6
- 12 Numbers 23 & 24; Psalm 51; Luke 7
- 13 Numbers 25 & 26
- 14 Numbers 27 & 28

- 15 Numbers 29 & 30; Psalm 52; Luke 8
- 16 Numbers 31 & 32; Psalm 53; Luke 9
- 17 Numbers 33 & 34; Psalm 54; Luke 10
- 18 Numbers 35 & 36; Psalm 55; Luke 11
- 19 Deuteronomy 1 & 2; Psalm 56; Luke 12
- 20 Deuteronomy 3 & 4
- 21 Deuteronomy 5 & 6
- 22 Deuteronomy 7 & 8; Psalm 57; Luke 13
- 23 Deuteronomy 9 & 10; Psalm 58; Luke 14
- 24 Deuteronomy 11 & 12; Psalm 59; Luke 15
- 25 Deuteronomy 13 & 14; Psalm 60; Luke 16
- 26 Deuteronomy 15 & 16; Psalm 61; Luke 17
- 27 Deuteronomy 17 & 18
- 28 Deuteronomy 19 & 20
- 29 Deuteronomy 21 & 22; Psalm 62; Luke 18
- 30 Deuteronomy 23 & 24; Psalm 63; Luke 19
- 31 Deuteronomy 25 & 26; Psalm 64; Luke 20

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Save the date – Saturday, April 30 – Come to the church at 6:30pm to see **WAR ROOM**. With great jobs, a beautiful daughter and a dream house, the Jordans seem to have it all. Appearances can be deceiving, however, as husband Tony flirts with temptation, and wife Elizabeth becomes increasingly bitter, crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn for the better when Elizabeth meets her newest client, Miss Clara, who encourages the couple to find happiness through prayer.

This film is being shown by *Family Christian* in Exton in connection with National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 5.





**EASTER WORD SEARCH**  
 (Find the words relating to the Easter Story)

V	A	B	M	O	T	D	E	L	A	E	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	M
E	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	O	L	D	I	E	R	S	O	Y
E	S	T	O	N	E	M	B	A	G	A	O	V	C	E	C	N	M	M	G	G
V	E	T	L	N	R	A	H	M	T	E	D	R	R	M	E	E	E	D	F	S
O	V	N	L	E	E	S	N	R	O	H	T	F	O	N	W	O	R	C	O	O
O	E	A	E	D	E	C	E	L	C	T	D	H	S	L	E	L	E	N	B	D
L	I	N	D	R	B	F	I	V	I	A	D	E	S	I	O	T	J	E	M	M
O	H	E	A	A	Y	L	I	F	V	M	V	E	F	E	N	D	A	W	A	E
M	T	O	W	G	Y	C	O	L	I	I	A	E	W	E	M	Y	A	L	L	O
D	U	O	A	I	T	J	F	I	L	R	B	R	M	O	A	A	O	I	I	M
S	T	I	Y	O	Y	P	E	O	L	A	C	E	Y	P	R	T	N	F	V	P
L	N	G	R	A	V	E	F	Y	N	F	N	A	G	O	T	R	E	E	E	B
I	I	Y	D	O	R	O	M	A	N	O	A	R	S	A	H	Y	O	D	L	E
A	T	N	A	E	T	O	P	H	T	H	M	E	E	H	R	B	T	B	D	L
N	U	R	E	N	R	E	D	A	E	P	A	I	S	T	E	D	I	O	E	R
S	W	P	U	N	G	E	A	I	S	E	A	E	S	O	E	A	E	C	M	E
L	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	P	G	D	F	V	N	J	B
N	M	N	A	R	H	L	L	O	P	O	O	E	I	L	A	B	R	E	E	R
O	G	N	E	M	O	W	O	N	A	J	N	V	C	O	Y	R	S	S	N	R
M	N	I	D	R	I	B	A	T	E	L	L	O	E	G	S	U	L	I	J	M
T	P	R	R	E	U	I	R	S	H	I	D	E	S	R	S	A	D	R	T	M

ALIVE  
 ANGEL  
 AROSE  
 ATONEMENT  
 BORROWED TOMB  
 CROSS  
 CROWN OF THORNS  
 DEATH DEFEATED  
 DISCIPLES  
 EARLY MORNING  
 EMPTY TOMB  
 ETERNAL LIFE

FORGIVENESS  
 GARDEN  
 GARDENER  
 GETHSEMANE  
 GOLGOTHA  
 GRAVE  
 HEAVEN  
 JESUS  
 JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA  
 LAMB OF GOD  
 LILY  
 LINEN CLOTH

MARY  
 MOUNT OF OLIVES  
 NAILS  
 NEW LIFE  
 PASSOVER  
 PIERCED  
 PILATE  
 PRAETORIUM  
 RESURRECTION  
 RISEN  
 ROLLED AWAY  
 ROMAN

SACRIFICE  
 SEALED TOMB  
 SIMON OF CYRENE  
 SOLDIERS  
 SPICES  
 STONE  
 SUNDAY  
 THIEVES  
 THREE DAYS  
 VIA DOLOROSA  
 VICTORY  
 WOMEN

**BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD**