

# E-Messenger

## First Church of Christ

Cut and pasted from Bob Russell's Blog:

Two months ago my wife and I were visiting my son Rusty and his family in Port Charlotte, Florida. One day Rusty was test-driving a foreign-made car and was frustrated because he couldn't figure out how to change the speedometer reading from kilometers to miles. That evening he suggested we take his kids and all go out for ice cream. "We'll need to take two cars," he insisted, "so you and mom just follow us." I followed him down a divided highway at what seemed to be a safe speed and was surprised when a policeman whizzed up behind us with his lights flashing. I couldn't imagine he was after me because it didn't feel like I was speeding. And besides, I was going the exact same speed as the guy in front of me. However, the policeman pulled both Rusty and me over to the side of the road. The officer came up to my window and said, "Sir, you were going 58 miles an hour in a 45 mph zone. But wait right here, I'm going to deal with the

car in front of you and I'll be right back." When he went to my son's car, Rusty quivered, "Officer, I know this is going to sound like a line, but this is the first day I've driven this car and I can't figure out how to change it from kilometers to miles so I had no idea how fast I was going. The guy behind me is my dad...and he doesn't know what he's doing either!" Fortunately the policeman was full of grace and let Rusty off with a warning. Somehow he sensed he was telling the truth. He was even smiling a little when he came back to me and declared, "Your son explained his situation with the speedometer and I understand you're from out of town, so I'm going to let you both go. But try to keep it to 45, please."

One of the problems Christians have in today's world is that we just go along with the moral pace of those around us. By comparison we feel safe. After all, "Everyone is doing it," so it must be okay. Bob

Vernon, former Assistant Police Chief of Los Angeles said today's church has a ten degree philosophy of morality. He says we're satisfied to stay just ten degrees above the world and imagine we're living holy lives when in reality we're flagrantly violating God's moral law and spiraling down into a moral abyss right behind the world.

When a Youth Minister was confronted because a number of pornographic websites were discovered in his computer history, he rationalized, "It's just soft-core porn. It's not the vulgar stuff that so many are into these days." In his mind he was innocent because he was ten degrees above the world around him. The Bible says, "When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves they are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12).

The challenge for today's Christian is to allow God's Word to remain the standard for holiness and not just

### April Issue

### Volume 3, Issue 4

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passively "go with the flow." The Bible reminds us repeatedly that, "The Word of the Lord endures forever." God's commandments don't change even when the culture around us is speeding toward destruction.

The Apostle Paul urged the Christians residing in Rome,

## THE CROSS

**The cross is proof that God's love is sincere. God extends love through Jesus, by way of a horrible death, that we may have life.**

**The cross gives hope to life amid despair and death. For God enters the chaos of life, through the death of Jesus, to open the door to life, love, forgiveness and eternal hope.**

**The cross is God offering to us a way out of bondage to sin**

**and enslavement to evil.**

**The cross gives us an opportunity to offer the brokenness of our lives to Christ for healing and redemption.**

**A cross and a death redeemed God's fallen creation from the curse and shame of sin.**

**The cross towers above the landmarks of history as God's gracious and loving act, available to all for re-**

**demption and reconciliation.**

**The cross is a constant reminder that God loved enough to give an only Son. It is a love whose influence and inspiration cast a constant fragrance on the events and experiences of time.**



## Serving in April

### Greeters:

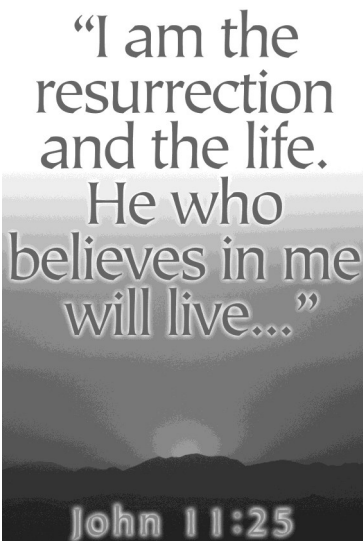
- 5—John & Nora Altman (A)
- 12—Ron & Ellen Walker (A)
- 19—Bettie Finken (A)
- 26—Cindy Perry (A)

### Communion Ministry:

- 5—Adam Perry
- 12—Dean & Sue Smethurst
- 19—Larry Snavelly
- 26—Ramon & Barbara Alpaugh



- 1 Dan Nixon
- 3 Mike Green
- 4 Luci Mangen,  
Nolan Slesman
- 5 Emillee Snavelly
- 9 Julia Hull
- 10 Dale Puff
- 12 Julie Garmenn
- 14 Bob Lloyd
- 17 Anna Dunlap, Brock Rhodes
- 19 Curt Bennett, Todd Karnes
- 21 Josh Suffel
- 23 Lauren Crider
- 24 Lesley Shirkey
- 26 Barbara Alpaugh, Noah Roh-



### Prayer Warriors:

Amber Rogers & Pam Hartman

### Welcome Center:

- 5—John/Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)
- 12—Lesley Shirkey (9); Kevin/Barb Gallagher (9:45)
- 19—Shawn/Stephanie Ramey (9); Jordan/Heather Day (9:45)

### Nursery:

- 5—Jane Runyan/Marlee Carroll
- 12—Kim Snavelly/Tess Sabins
- 19—Mary Lloyd/Caity Karnes
- 26—Anna Trubey/Riley Sabins

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- rer, Dan Yahraus
- 27 Titus Rohrer
- 29 Shirley Kinnan
- 30 Joe Jerger

- 13 Ron & Linda Lewis (47)
- 19 Rich & Sherry Trubey (29)
- 21 Paul & Annie Engel (8)
- 29 Josh & Emily Tonneas (6)



### Family News

#### Sympathy

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ Norm & Joan Brown and family on the death of Norm's sister-in law.
- ♥ Doc & Annie Engel and family on the death of Annie's aunt.

(continued from page 1)

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will". (Romans 12:2)

That doesn't mean that we have to dress like puritans or be odd for God. But it does mean we're willing to be distinctive from the world. Instead of seeing how close we can come to emulating our culture, we see how close we can come to imitating the character of God.

Jesus said His followers should be the light

of the world and Paul said we should try to make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. Can you imagine what a positive influence Christians would be if our speech was pure, our dress was modest, our work habits were ethical, our marriages were loving, our children were respectful, our attitudes were joyful and our decisions were unselfish almost all the time?

Philippians 2: 15 urges us to, "...become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." Light always eliminates darkness; it doesn't blend in with it.

# APRIL

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			<p>1 No Wednesday Activities</p>	<p>2 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 10:00 Pre-Easter Breakfast &amp; Program 7:00 Communion Service</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Easter 8:00 Worship 9:00 Breakfast 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 10:00 Craft Group</p>	<p>8 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 James Study</p>	<p>9 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p>	<p>10  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Believe-Anderson, IN</div></p>	<p>11 8:00 Men's Breakfast @ 4 Seasons</p>
<p>12 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 James Study</p>	<p>16 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 12:45 Visitation Ministry</p>	<p>22 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 James Study</p>	<p>23 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Rita's in Edgerton</p>	<p>29 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 James Study</p>	<p>30 9:30 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons</p>		



# FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Love All, Worship One,  
Make Disciples

[Bryanfcc.org](http://Bryanfcc.org)

Connect with us!



First Church of Christ



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## Facts & Figures

March 1

Attendance *SS* No Count Worship 25/116  
Offering \$4,444.00

March 8

Attendance *SS* 52 Worship 44/124  
Offering \$17,983.00

March 15

Attendance *SS* 61 Worship 43/142  
Offering \$5,740.00

March 22

Attendance *SS* 55 Worship 46/147  
Offering \$3,459.00

## Love All

**Our Service Personnel:** Kevin Bergman (GA), Igor Blinzler (MO), Jared Headley (CO), Lindsey Kaiser, Nathan McCoy (Japan), Stewart Martin (NC), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Severs (Afghanistan), Ethan Shook (NC), Josh Tonneas (MA)

**Cancer:** Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Bruce Beerbower, Arlene Boyer, Sherry Buchsteiner, Martin Collins, Amy Curry, Weston DuBois, Danielle Goltare, Carrie H., Dennis Holthues, Gene Johns, Molly Johnston, Judy Koerner, Pat Koerner, Chuck Lees, Marshall, Doug McClure, Chloe Merillat, Vickie Moore, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Lyle

Snavely, Dinah Stiltner, Barry Sweet, Tammy, Joe Vaccaro, Kathy Walton, Al West, Gloria Wright. **Other Concerns:** Ann Rittenhouse, Jennifer Mavis, Evelyn Fox, Bill McCarthy, Pat Turnbull, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Brittany Slesman, Jo Harman, Troy Hug, Trevor Bailey, Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Mike Rosendaul, Bob Wagner, Paul Newcomb, Denise Easterday, Brittany Kitchen, Madelon Salisbury, Kim Walker, Jim McPeak, Mark Breininger, Asher, Deb Nixon, Georgianna Weaver, John Leppelmeier, Mike Hug, Brenda Ridgway, Dorothy,

June Shook, Trisha Phillips, Annie Engel, Lola Pardee, Alice Brown, Juanita Ruble, Cameron Mishel, Joe Jerger, Maribel Duckworth, Braylie Appel, Joan Bauer.

**Shut Ins: Fountain Park:** Maribel Duckworth, **Hillside:** Floyd Puffenbarger, **Home:** Marcena Bly, Linda Lewis, Georgianna Weaver, **Fairlawn Haven:** Gerald Wetmore, **Genesis:** Vivian Holdsworth, **The Lakes of Monclova:** Roger Ellis