

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD

Kim's aunt is clinically blind. It's interesting to be in her home, to see the way things have been set up so she is able to get along on her own. There are raised areas on the knobs on her stove so she knows how to set the temperature. The same is true on her washing machine and dryer, so she knows how to set them properly for the clothes she is washing.

Kim and I were down visiting her not long ago. Getting cleaned up for the days' activities, I noticed her scale under a bench in her bathroom. Our scales at home have been broken for a while so I thought I would use hers to see what I weighed. I stepped on the scales and up came the number on the digital readout, it wasn't great but not as bad as I was expecting. As I'm standing there all the sudden the scale starts to talk, "you weigh -----." I was fine with knowing what I weighed; I just didn't want it announced to the whole house. So I try to jump off to silence it before everyone hears. No one really seemed to notice, so minor crisis was averted.

On our way to the campus to see our son, I got telling my wife the story, thinking it would make her smile. We got a nice chuckle out of it. That's

when my wife said, "Did you notice that the scale weighed 20 pounds light?" That is when I experienced a small bout of depression right there in the car. You've got to be kidding; 20 pounds light? Yes, she assured me. Now, in a very rare moment for me, I was not hungry. In fact I was very ready to skip breakfast.

A couple of spiritual thoughts about my morning with the scale. I was not very excited about my weight being announced to the world, and I would not be very excited about my sins being announced to the world. I appreciate that you all know that I am a sinner, but the part that I like about it is that it's so general. My worst sins are the occasional white lie, eating too much, or I don't pray like I should. I like you see me under the illusion that all of my sins are of a minor variety.

The sins I may successfully hide from you, but God is fully aware.

"But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure

your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23

That idea leads me to my second spiritual thought. I grossly undervalued the weight of my own sin. Just as the scale undervalued my physical weight, I undervalue the spiritual weight of my sin.

Notice how James teaches the Christian to respond to the awareness of their sin: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." James 4:7-10

Lament and mourn and weep! I barely acknowledge my sin much less lament, mourn or weep. My sins drove Jesus to the cross, but it will barely drive me to my knees to seek his forgiveness.

God knows me for who I really am. He has never undervalued the weight of my sin. He sees my sin for what it really is. In light of all

February Issue

Volume 3, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

February Servers 2

Birthdays & Anniversaries 2

Calendar 3

that God knows about me, he loves me. His son died that I might be an heir to the throne. Thank you for knowing all about me, God, and still loving me.

Destined to Win,
Larry Shavelly

CONTROL

It seems as though there are many things in life that can consume us. This time of year many people are consumed with professional football the culmination of which takes place at the Super Bowl. However, it won't stop. There will be planning for trades, draft picks, next seasons fantasy team, and the topics go on and on. I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with following sports, being a huge fan, cheering and following your team. The point I want to make deals with control. What is it that controls your life?

Sports may not control your life. It could be work, a hobby, family, clothes, jewelry, television, books, or pets.

It could be any of a multitude of items. None of these are wrong or sinful within themselves. What becomes wrong, or sinful if you will, is "control." We want to be in control or at least think we are in control of our lives, but that is really not the case. There is always something in our lives that seems to create a struggle for control.

The Apostle Paul tells us in the 8th chapter of Romans that control of our lives is really a fairly simple matter. We are either controlled by the Holy Spirit through Jesus or by the sinful nature. Romans 8:9 says *But you are not*

controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) However, Paul also makes it quite clear that the sinful nature is not something that goes away when we accept Christ as Savior; it is a daily struggle. We are to die to self and take up our cross daily.

It's not that we allow other things to control our lives; it's that we allow our sinful nature to take over. Have you made that decision to allow the Holy Spirit to control you? Do

you reaffirm that decision each day to keep the sinful nature from creeping back in? What about those around you? Is there anyone you know that you would like to see trust Christ as Savior? If so, tell them how He has made a difference in your life and how He can change their lives for eternity. Plant the seeds because the harvest is close.

Continually overcoming,
Tim Calvin

Serving in February

Greeters:

- 1—Scott & Anne Bard (A)
- 8—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
- 15—Scott & Pam Hartman (A)
- 22—Dean & Sue Smethurst (A)

Communion Ministry:

- 1—Brock Rohrer
- 8—Adam Perry

- 15—Dean & Sue Smethurst
- 22—Larry Snavelly

Prayer Warriors:

Jane Perry & Cindy Perry

Welcome Center:

- 1—John/Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)
- 8—Lesley Shirkey (9); Kevin/Barb Gallagher (9:45)

- 15—Shawn/Stephanie Ramey (9); Jordan/Heather Day (9:45)

Nursery:

- 1—Kim Snavelly/Riley Sabins
- 8—Heather Day/Megan Grimm
- 15—Courtney Herendeen/Sabrina Ramey
- 22—Anna Trubey/Marlee Carroll



Birthdays & Anniversaries



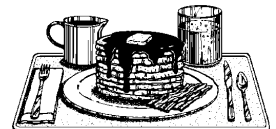
- 1 Bill Brandeberry
- 2 Vincent Girardot
- 4 Katelyn Farrell
- 7 Logan Smith
- 9 Carole Cramer, Kathey Dick, Esther Rosendaul, Danielle Strouse
- 12 Kamryn Dick
- 13 Ben Riehle
- 14 Tracy Brandeberry, Dean Krill
- 17 Wendy Farrell
- 18 Roger Ellis, Doc Engel
- 21 Nora Altman, Esther Krill
- 24 Kayla Stiverson, Edith Wag-

- ner
- 25 Katie Beerbower, Melissa Beerbower
- 27 John Altman
- 28 Rick Reasor, Polly Slesman



- 4 Joe & Linda Roberts (20)
- 5 Ron & Karen Roose (43)
- 14 Tom & Cindy Horton (29)
- 15 Mark & Kelly Breining (17)

Pancake & Sausage Supper: The 7th annual Pancake & Sausage Supper, hosted by the Mission Team and Pancake & Sausage Committee, will be held Thursday, March 12, 5:00-7:00 PM. The free will offering will go toward the Woodburn mission project July 12-18. Frozen 1 pound yummy Jacoby's sausage patties and casing will be available for purchase (\$3.50) each.



Family News

Congratulations!

- ♥ Kermit & Denise Riehle on the birth of their grandson, Elijah Adam Riehle who was born to Adam & Lydia.

Sympathy

The church family extends her sympathy to the following families:

- ♥ Dick Newcomb on the death of his sister-in-law, Bernice Rickard.
- ♥ Family of Germaine Miller.

- ♥ Tom & Lisa Turnbull and family on the loss of Lisa's mother, Mary Neidhardt.

Card Shower


Roger Ellis is celebrating his birthday on February 18th. His family would like to have a card shower for him. Please send cards to Roger Ellis, The Lakes of Monclova #162, 6035 Monclova Rd., Maumee, OH 43537.

Hospitality

"Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step toward dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time."

--Joan D. Chittister
Wisdom Distilled

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Super Sunday 8:00 Worship 8:30 Connect 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Chili Cook Off 6:00 Snavelly Life Group 6:00 Super Bowl Party</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Craft Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 Women's 5C @ All Things Food</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:00 Worship 8:30 Connect 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 Men's Breakfast @ 4 Seasons</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 Worship 8:30 Connect 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 1:30 Rohrer Life Group 6:00 Snavelly Life Group</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:45 Visitation Ministry</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><i>Jr. High Believe</i></p> </div>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 Worship 8:30 Connect 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Pizza Hut</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion (5-12) 6:30 Fusion (K-4) 6:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

First Church of Christ

129 N. Walnut Street
Bryan, OH 43506

Phone: 419-636-3509

Fax: 419-633-7226

E-mail: firstcofc@cityofbryan.net



Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

Bryanfcc.org

Facts & Figures

January 4

Attendance S.S. 43 Worship 28/104
Offering \$2,795.00

January 11

Attendance S.S. 47 Worship 44/114
Offering \$2,795.00

January 18

Attendance S. S. 38 Worship 47/110
Offering \$3,749.00

January 25

Attendance S. S. No count Worship 44/123
Offering \$4,712.00

Needed weekly to meet budget \$5,980.01

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, Marvin Bailey, Bruce Beerbower, Arlene Boyer, Mary Brodbeck, 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 Snaveley, 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, Maxie Kidd, Bob Wagner, Paul Newcomb, Denise Easterday, Brittany Kitchen, Madelon Salisbury, Kim Walker, Jim McPeak, Mark Breininger, Asher, Deb Nixon, Georgianna Weaver, John Lep-

pelmeier, Mike Hug, Brenda Ridgeway, Dorothy, Mason Thornton, June Shook, Trisha Phillips, Annie Engel, Matt Monroe & Family, Jim Schmidt, Lola Pardee, Blinzlers, Alice Brown.

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