

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

Told by Derric Johnson:

“When Jaci (the last of our five children) was four years old, I saw her kneeling at our glass-topped coffee-table. I supposed she was looking down at wedding pictures or a Disney Memory Book. But I smiled and asked anyway, ‘What are you doing?’

She paused and looked up before saying simply, ‘Jaci prays.’

That seemed to be too good an opportunity to pass up, so I said, ‘Can I pray with you?’

‘Yetz’ (that’s how it’s said when you’re four)

was her one-word reply.

I knelt beside her and asked, ‘Do you want Daddy to pray, or are you doing it?’

Full of confidence she answered, ‘Jaci prays.’

She folded her hands and closed her eyes. Then she turned her head and looked up at me and admonished, ‘CLOSE YOUR EYES!’

I do confess that I was staring down at her with love and wonder. After all, Jesus said, ‘Watch and pray,’ and I was fulfilling His com-

mand.

So, with my hands dutifully folded, I bowed my head and closed my eyes.

And this is what I heard, ‘Dear Jesus, Thank you. Amen.’ I looked down and said, ‘That’s it?’

Jaci looked up at me and said, ‘That’s enough.’

Those five words moved me to tears. I went upstairs to my office, got on my knees and spent the next 30 minutes just saying, ‘Dear Jesus, thank you. Thank you for the good times and the hard

April Issue

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times, the happy times and the tough times, because they are all from Your hand. Thank you, thank you, thank you.’

An Empty Tomb

It’s Easter time again, and Christians across the world focus on the empty tomb of Christ. It is glorious, an amazing symbol of our faith, and proof of the fact that our Savior lives. However, sometimes it seems as though we as Christians spend a little too much time at the tomb. Do we linger too long? Do we find ourselves taking a second glance just to be sure it’s empty?

I’ll admit, the concept of an empty tomb is just about more than our frail

human minds can comprehend. Once something is dead, it’s dead. Lifeless matter does not regenerate. That’s the argument that Dr. Frankenstein was attempting to overcome in the novel written by Mary Shelley. It didn’t really work out well for him as he thought he could supersede God. Oh wait, yes, there it is. God is the one in control of life and death.

On the morning of the third day at sunrise, Mary and Mary

Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint the lifeless body of Jesus with oils and spices as was custom. Suddenly there was a great earthquake. As the ladies looked at the tomb, the large stone sealing the entrance had been rolled away, and an angel of the Lord shining like lightning was present. The angel asked them why they were there looking for Jesus because He was not there for He had risen!

In the book of Mat-

thew, chapter 28, verse 8, we find these words: *The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel’s message.* Do you see that? There’s no lingering, there’s no second glance to make sure. The women RAN from the tomb filled with fear, joy, and excitement to tell others. On their way, they met Jesus. He told them not to be afraid, but His presence only heightened their joy and excitement.

Serving in April

8—Lesley Shirkey (9)

Greeters:

- 1—Vince & Nola Girardot (A)
- 8—Scott Bard (A)
- 15—Todd & Teresa Gambler (A)
- 22—Toby & Jane Runyan (A)
- 29—Charlene Dean

Communion Ministry:

- 1—Jim & Pat McPeak
- 8—Brock Rohrer
- 15—Adam Perry

22—

29—Dean & Sue Smethurst

Prayer Warriors:

Pam Hartman & Angie Murphy

Welcome Center:

1—John & Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



April
BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dan Nixon
- 4 Luci Mangan
- 9 Julia Hull
- 10 Dale Puff
- 14 Bob Lloyd
- 17 Brock Rhodes
- 19 Curt Bennett, Todd Karnes
- 24 Lesley Shirkey
- 26 Barbara Alpaugh, Noah Rohrer, Dan Yahraus
- 27 Titus Rohrer
- 29 Shirley Kinnan

30 Joe Jerger



April
ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Ron & Linda Lewis (50)
- 15 Shawn & Marcia Gambler (6)
- 19 Rich & Sherry Trubey (32)
- 24 Josh & Emily Tonneas (9)

Our All-in-All

What the hand is to the lute,
What the breath is to the flute,
What is fragrance to the smell?
What the spring is to the well,
What the flower is to the bee,
That is Jesus Christ to me.

What's the mother to the child?
What the guide in pathless wild?
What is oil to troubled wave?
What is ransom to the slave?
What is water to the sea?
That is Jesus Christ to me.

—C.H. Spurgeon

Our true power source

The story is told of someone who plugged a power strip into itself and then couldn't understand why the system wouldn't turn on! We get a kick out of such tales, yet how often do we try to "power" our own lives? We frequently think we need to be the source of our own strength, joy, peace, energy and wisdom.

Jesus doesn't teach us to find life within ourselves — or in any human being or earthly circumstance, object or philosophy. Rather, calling himself the good shepherd, Jesus says, "I have come that [my sheep] may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

We don't access that abundant life by "plugging into" ourselves. Instead, Jesus invites us to plug into his power — and joy, peace, hope, truth — through prayer and Scripture, worship and service, fellowship with other Christians and the beauty of God's world.



APRIL

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00 Worship 9:00 Breakfast 10:15 Worship 		10:00 Craft Group	5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Bible Studies	9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers		
8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship			5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Bible Studies	9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers		8:00 Men's Breakfast
8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 6:00 Larry's Life Group		12:45 Visitation Ministry	5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Bible Studies	9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers		
8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship		11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Clay's	5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Bible Studies	9:15 Ladies Bible Study @ Seasons 9:30 Senior Seekers		
8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

129 N. Walnut Street
Bryan, OH 43506

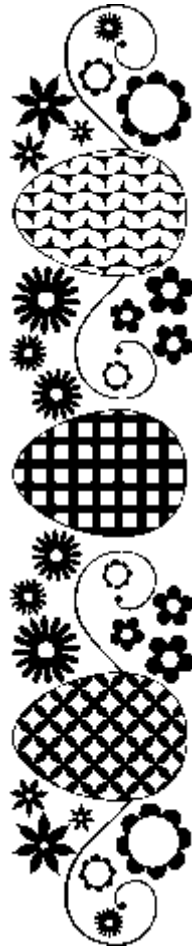
Phone: 419-636-3509
Fax: 419-633-7226
E-mail: firstcofc@cityofbryan.net

Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples



Connect with us!

Office Hours: Monday-
Thursday 8:00 AM-5:00
PM



Facts & Figures

	March 4	
Attendance SS	NC	Worship 57/120
Offering		\$7,604.00
	March	
Attendance SS	29	Worship 35/113
Offering		\$3,623.00
	March 18	
Attendance SS	27	Worship 47/113
Offering		\$5,855.00
	March 25	
Attendance SS	30	Worship 57/121
Offering		\$4,185.00
	Needed for Budget	\$5,828.86

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Lindsey Kaiser, Josh Severs (Germany), Josh Tonneas (TX)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Nathan Bailey, Chuck Barnes, Arlene Boyer, Randy Boltinghouse, Brent, Tim Bight, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Andrew Dell, Adam Farger, Carrie H., Molly Johnston, Kent, Chuck Lees, Ron Lewis, Tim Mavis, Aaron Nartker, Connie Pence, Mary Pinckley, Elaine Purdue, Kathy Rittenhouse, Sue Robson, Bob & Sue Secoy, Terry Shinaberry, Lyle Snavely, Ron Stark, Dinah Stiltner, Amy Tobin, Jaime Trevino, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Way-

man, Al West, Gloria Wright.
Other Concerns: Jennifer Mavis, Brianna Lloyd, Trevor Bailey, Dale & Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Paul Newcomb, Asher Cravens, Brenda Ridgway, Cindy Wolf, Zach Swisher, Cheryl Towers, Cunningham Family, Keller Gardner, Gene Nash, Ginny Sufferel, Marilyn Lundy, Bob Lloyd, Josh Tonneas, Dan Yahraus, Kim Beek, Mary Jane Sweebe, Norma Stambaugh, Heather Kauffman, Merit Hahn, Mark Rhodes, *Shut Ins:* Genesis: Gloria Wright, Hillside: Floyd Puffenbarger, Home: Linda Lewis, Lena Luke;

The Commons of Providence Road: Barbara Hake.



He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.

Rejoice in the resurrection of

Jesus Christ.



WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

After telling that tender story, Derric Johnson looked out at a sophisticated audience of several hundred Bible College Presidents, Academic Deans, and administrators. He added, "And right now I'm going to ask you to pray 'Jaci's Prayer.' Five simple words that should move your heart deeply. Dear Jesus, Thank you. Amen. Say it again, only this time (like Jaci told me) CLOSE YOUR EYES! Dear Jesus, Thank you. Amen. That's enough."

Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly

Yes, there is an empty tomb because Jesus is no longer in it, but where is He for you? Are you lingering, trying to figure out how this all worked? Then run from the tomb. Be filled with the joy and excitement that only Jesus can bring and tell others of His glorious message. We live because He lives, and He is alive forevermore!

Continually overcoming,

Tim Calvin

24 Hour Reboot "Complete in Christ"

Lake James presents the Ladies' Retreat April 20-21. Guest speaker is Mitzi Saltzman with music by Praise Trio. This year's REBOOT wants you to spend time with the people you love. Workshops are designed for grandmas, moms, daughters, girlfriends...all of us together. We will share in worship, laughter and getting to know each other better. Prepare for a good old Friday night! Registration forms are available on the main bulletin board.

IN HIS GREAT
mercy
He has given us
NEW BIRTH INTO A LIVING **HOPE**
THROUGH THE
resurrection
of Jesus Christ
from the dead

-1 Peter 1:3

I can do
ALL THINGS
through
Christ
who strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13