

From the Pastor.....

It's already February and many of us have already broken our new year's resolutions. These promises although sincerely well intentioned usually result in frustration as we come face to face with our weaknesses and inability to establish new positive patterns of behavior. However, there are promises we can count on. Promises that truly bring about changes in our lives. Let me illustrate with a story from John Bunyan's great allegory, *"Pilgrim's Progress."*

"Christian," the main character, decides to leave the main highway and follow another path that seems much easier. But the path leads him into the territory of *"Giant Despair,"* who owns *"Doubting Castle."* Giant Despair captures Christian and imprisons him in a dungeon. Despair encourages Christian to commit suicide. The giant said there would be no use trying to keep with the journey; things were hopeless.

But Hope, Christian's traveling companion, reminds him of previous victories. So it came about on Saturday, about midnight, the two began to pray and continued praying until almost morning.

As Sunday dawned, Christian broke out in powerful proclamation, *"What a fool am I thus to lie in stinking dungeon, when I may as well be at liberty."* I have a key in my bosom called 'promise' that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in Doubting Castle." Then Hope quickly added, *That's good news, Christian, good brother, pluck it out of that bosom and try."* When Christian put the key of promise into the lock, the gate of the dungeon in the Doubting Castle flew open and he was free!

So it is with us. We find ourselves imprisoned in our "Castles of doubt, when God doesn't act on our timetable. We are tempted to give up. The "giant" called Despair tempts us to end the journey. If only we will take out the promise of God and insert them into the lock of our often self-constructed prisons, we will not only be free to live life to the fullest but also see God keep His promises. Could you use the key of God's promise somewhere in your life today? I know for me and my family, we sure can! So, go ahead, quickly pull out that key and put it in the lock that is holding you captive today and see God's promises come to fruition and transform your life.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

-Jeremiah 29:11

I love you all....

Pastor Frank



Most of our group was able to participate in the missions banquet held Saturday, February 11, 2017. Supporting a table sponsor, or by assisting the fabulous cooks who prepared and served the meal, we were able to be a part of this evening to help raise funds for those going to Ghana on a mission trip soon. Pray for those going, as well as their families here who support them. A good time was had by all that evening, and a total of \$6,700 was received.

February 12-19 was Focus WMU week. Our last meeting led us to review and discuss the 6 objectives WMU shares in meeting the challenge of Christian believers to understand and be involved in the mission of God. (1) We pray for missions, (2) We engage in mission action and witnessing, (3) We learn about missions, (4) We support missions, (5) We develop spiritually, and (6) We participate in the work of our church and denomination. This is important because we believe that the gospel story and the Great Commission matters.

March 11, 2017 @ 6:30 pm a dessert auction will be held in our family ministry center to support our missions outreach. All those who are able to bake or make a specialty food item, come and bring family and friends and prepare to have fun as well as purchase a delicious dessert item. Contact Carolyn Lane or the church office for details.

March 5-12, we emphasize the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. As a founder of WMU, Annie Armstrong helped create a legacy, which today continues to challenge those in the U.S. and Canada to make disciples together for His kingdom. The North American Mission Board (NAMB), partnering with many Southern Baptist churches, sends missionaries to many unreached cities of North America, where they preach, baptize, and make disciples for His kingdom. 100% of your gift supports these missionaries. Please read the brochure in your March bulletin.

During the months of February and March, WMU will be collecting underwear and socks for needy children and adults who live in Wise County, Southwest Va. These donations will be given to the Bland Ministry Center. Please leave donations in the baskets under the bench in the back hall.



"With Spring around the corner, plans for events and camps is in full swing. On March 3-4, we will be headed to PlanetWisdom, a student conference where students laugh, learn, and sing as they grow closer to God and stronger in their spiritual walk. Later this summer, our youth will be heading to Ridgecrest, NC for Centrifuge summer camp. Sabrina Farris is helping tremendously with planning over the summer and her efforts deserve a firm congratulations. Of course, with summer camp will inevitably come requests for volunteers, fundraisers, and other activities. If you can or feel called to serve with your time or your resources, please let us know!

Another thing that commonly occurs with the start of the Spring semester and the warming of the late-winter months are sports, clubs, and school outings. Students have a lot on their plates these days, there's no doubt about that. I empathize with them. When I was in high school, I was a huge band nerd, ran track, attended the honors courses and pretended like I had a viable social life. In the midst of the busy schedules and conflicting priorities each group would encourage, my parents were hard-nosed about church. As I once heard a comedian say, "if the custodian was going to wash the windows, our butts were in our pew and we would watch him do it!" Looking back on it, I'm glad that I had to sacrifice other priorities that were far more fleeting for spending time at church and with other believers. I can't tell you what place I got in my third track meet as a high school junior, but I can tell you about the testimony from a classmate who accepted Jesus. I can't tell you what subject I debated at a debate club competition, but I can tell you the verse that made a teenage Joseph realize that his life was not his own (Phil 1:21).

I have been encouraged by many of the students I have seen make sacrifices to spend time in the Word, whether they are spending that time at CROSSROADS, Young Life's Campaigners, or some other church's youth group. Deuteronomy 4:24 says, "For our God is a consuming fire, he is a jealous God." When these students set their priorities on an everlasting relationship with God, they allow God and God's plans for them to 'consume' them like a fire. They yoke themselves with God's strength which protects them from the temptations, trials, and afflictions of a fallen world.

I know time management isn't an easy subject and I know it cuts people personally. The world has put a tremendous amount of strain on the relationship between students-and-church, children-and-parents, and teens-and-society. I encourage everyone, parents and non-parents alike, to keep the students in your prayers that God would open doors for them to grow in their faith, whether those doors are here at CROSSROADS or elsewhere. Pray that God would encourage the hearts of those who control these students' schedules that they would have more opportunities to spend time with fellow believers. Finally, pray that God reminds our students of His enduring love. If we can help a generation see the awesome power and worth of a relationship in Christ and how much pursuits of this world pale in comparison, imagine what amazing things can be accomplished for the kingdom in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Joseph Pack
Student Ministry Coordinator
"CROSSROADS Student Ministries"



Music News

UPCOMING:

- An evening of song presented by the internationally-acclaimed touring choir of Alma College from Alma, Michigan.

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at 8pm in the Sanctuary

- Preparations are underway for the Easter Sunday Musical presentation, "The Way, The Truth, The Life" by Dennis and Nan Allen to be presented **Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 11 am in the Sanctuary.**
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The month of February is often associated with love. After all, we celebrated Valentine's Day on the 14th. In the Adult Choir, this theme of love has taken on a heart shape in the month's Call to Worship, "Oh, How He Loves You and Me".

American songwriter, Kurt Kaiser, now 82 and still composing and teaching, wrote "Oh, How He Loves You and Me" in 1975.

His career began in the 1960's as the director of the Baylor Religious Hour Choir. He and friend Ralph Carmichael began writing Christian Rock musicals and were a driving force behind youth finding a place in church again. One of their hits "Pass It On" completely sold out on its first run. Kaiser is a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and has arranged and produced albums for the likes of George Beverly Shea, Burl Ives, Ernie Ford, Kathleen Battle and Joni Eareckson Tada.

Kaiser was 40 years old when he wrote about Christ's love in "Oh, How He Loves You and Me." He wrote it in his typical style of what we would call today the "Post It note" method. He would scrawl a phrase that had struck him in some way, and then file it away for future development. In 1975, the "Jesus movement" was a phenomenon in American religious life. Perhaps Kaiser encountered someone who had been overwhelmed by this love nature of Him. Notice the phrase is "Oh, how..." not just "He loves you and me". That suggests an extraordinary event someone was describing, which was either told to Kaiser or was something he heard. Perhaps it was similar to another experience that Kaiser relates about a worshipper who was sobbing by the close of Isaac Watts' hymn, "At the Cross". This was a memorable occasion for Kaiser, one he recalled years later. The emotion burned a permanent memory into his brain.

Kurt Kaiser was raised on simple music, but he later developed an appreciation for classical music and hymns. The Plymouth Brethren Church taught him early about acapella. One of Kaiser's passions after his classical music college education at American University and Northwestern University in the Chicago area has been in preserving hymns and their theological passages.

Clearly the message behind his "Oh, How He Loves You and Me" finds its origin in God's Word and underscores that love comes from God. In 1 John 4:19 we see that "We love because he first loved us." (ESV) All the secular celebrations and representations of the "holiday" would not be without our God-given capacity for love, nor could we ever surpass the gift of His Son.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 2017

Ghana Mission Trips....By the time you read this the first of our two mission trips to Ghana will have begun, with two of our men, Roger Kennedy and Brad Thomas on that team. The second trip leaves at the end of March, with Bob Martin on that team. At the Missions Banquet and during the past few weeks we saw once again what an awesome God we have and what a generous church we are a part of, as well over \$6,000 was donated to these mission trips. Pray, pray, pray during this month for these men and women that are on these teams. Pray for protection, pray for converts, pray for their families who are left behind and pray that God will receive all the glory in what they are doing in fulfilling our missions mandate of Acts 1:8.

BGBC Missions Dessert Auction.....BGBC will again hold a dessert auction on **Saturday, 11 March at 6:30pm in the FMC.** This was an exciting and enjoyable event last year that resulted in the raising of thousands of dollars for our missions ministry. Not only will there be many delicious desserts but also several other food items (like Richard Gustard's salsa) will be available for purchase. Come out, bring your cash and checkbook and donate some of your dollars in supporting our missions program and get something tasty in return.

Daylight Savings Time....DST begins on **Sunday, 12 March.** Remember to advance your clocks by one hour so you are not late for church!

HOMECOMING!.....Save the date! Homecoming is planned for **Sunday, 30 April 2017.** Special combined service with lunch to follow. Stay tuned for more details. For more information, contact Beverly McDearmon at: beverly.mcdearmon@gmail.com



march 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Ash Wednesday 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band 8:00pm Alma Choir Concert-Sanctuary	2	3 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool Crossroads trip- Planet Wisdom- Hilton Chapel- Woodbridge	4 Construction team back from Ghana Youth returning from Woodbridge
5 Annie Armstrong 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:00 New SS Class 11:00 Traditional Worship	6 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	7 6:00 p.m. Young Lives 7:00 Preschool Board of Directors Meeting	8 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	9	10 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool KIDZ Flight Nite	11 6:30 p.m. Dessert Auction to Benefit Missions
12 DSTime begins 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	13 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	14 12:00 Dollie Farmer WMU, Philathea Rm 12:00-5:00 Blood Mobile 6:00 p.m. Young Lives 6:30 Care & Visitation	15 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	16 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	17 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	18
19 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	20 Spring Newsletter Deadline 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	21 10:00 a.m. Christian Book Club 12:00 noon Bloodmobile 6:00 p.m. Young Lives 6:00 p.m. Relay for Life 7:00 Buildings and Grounds Meeting	22 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	23 Evangelistic Team leaves for Ghana	24 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	25
26 9:00 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	27 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	28 6:00 Young Lives	29 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	30	31 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	



Darlene Fulmer	2
Susie Hicks	2
Morgin Harrie	3
Forrest McGhee	3
Gavin Pickett	5
Erin Cushing	10
Wendy Flora	11
Stephen Farris	17
Haley Kennedy	18
Charles Stevens	20
Scott Moser	21
Vernon Hodge	22
Kenzie Kennedy	26
Sarah Beale	27
Caleb Kennedy	30



Deacon of the Week:

Mar 5 - Sandy Taylor
 Mar 12 - John Markham
 Mar 19 - Brad Thomas
 Mar 26 - Daniele Cushing

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Neal Tidman

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters– Lee Dunnington & Glenn McDearmon

Flowers:

Mar 5 – Sue Hollandsworth
 Mar 12 – Beth Curran
 Mar 19 – Debbie Pickett
 Mar 26 – Kay & Bob Rice

Coffee & Snack Schedule

March 5 – Sallie Tidman
 March 12 – Margaret Mills
 March 19 – Mary Flora
 March 26 – Jean Satterwhite

Nursery Workers: *

March 5 – Carolyn Lane, Jeanne Jordan, Kailey Gray
 March 12 – Heather Smith, Jenn Thomas, Emily Brillhart
 March 19 – Karen Covington, Amy Phelix, Gabby Dixon
 March 26 – Cathy Gray, Naeda Gustard, Kyle Farris

* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service;
 the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00
 service.