

September
2010



TRANSFORMING CULTURE BY BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST

New Castle First Church of God

PASTOR'S CORNER

“Doing God’s Work God’s Way” ~Zechariah 4:6

Many people believe that “God’s work” is activity done by missionaries, pastors, or churches, I need to clarify what this term really means. The devil has tried to trick us into believing that we can separate our lives into distinct areas—the religious and secular. Once we accept this, he can easily deceive us into thinking that “the Lord’s work” is done only by the clergy or those who serve in a church.

According to Scripture, each believer is “His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). There is no division of secular and religious areas in the lives of Christians. Everything that we do is to be done “as for the Lord rather than for men” (Col. 3:23). In faithfully doing our jobs, caring for our homes and families, or meeting needs in the church or community, we are serving Christ and participating in His activity. As “God’s fellow workers” (I Cor. 3:9). We need to know how to accomplish His goals His way.

There is a wonderful principle found in Zech. 4:6-7. Although the work that God ordains varies with each individual and generation, the principle He gave to Zechariah thousands of years ago is still applicable today: “Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zech. 4:6). In this verse, we find



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Pastor's Corner (continued)

two contrasting methods for completing a task. To tackle a job with might and power means to depend on our own resources and abilities, laboring with self-determination and reliance on human understanding and strength.

We are not called by the Lord to meet every need or take on every opportunity for service that we encounter. There is only so much He has allotted for each person to do. Does your schedule hold more than you can handle? If so, then it probably includes tasks that God has not meant for you. By spreading yourself too thin, the assignments He chose for you won't be done well, and He will not be glorified. The Lord does not bless what we do in our own self-determination. In fact, He may withdraw His hand, complicate circumstances, withhold the resources, and frustrate our efforts. Self-reliance results in stress, discouragement, and disillusionment. One danger of laboring in our own strength is an attachment to the job rather than to God. Instead of thinking of ourselves as His servants, we can begin to consider the ministry as our own and derive our identity from it. In an attempt to draw self-esteem and purpose in life from a task, we risk making it an idol. A believer's identity is in his relationship with Christ, not in what he achieves for the kingdom.

Zechariah 4:6 tells us that the other option for accomplishing God's purposes is "by His Spirit." Anything the Lord calls us to do should be done with total reliance upon the Holy Spirit, who indwells us. Knowing that human strength was completely inadequate for the service intended for His disciples, Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they were "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). How foolish to toil in inadequacy and frustration when God's gracious provision is available within us.

But how can we know if we are relying on the Spirit? First of all, let me tell you what this does not mean. Depending on the Lord is not a matter of praying for His blessing on what we choose to do, abdicating responsibility by "letting go and letting God," or turning to Him as a last resort after exhausting ourselves and running out of options.

True reliance upon the Lord is a deep conviction that we cannot do the work without Him. In other words, if He doesn't work through us, it will not be done. One of the sweetest prayers God ever hears from His children is, "Oh God, I can't!" because He knows we are about to depend completely upon Him. The goal of our labor should not be to make a big splash, but to end well, having done everything that God entrusted to us—and in a manner that gives Him all the glory and praise. May God bless our work as we labor together for Him.

Pastor Bill & Carole



UNDERGROUND REFUGE'S TALENT NIGHT



Saturday, Sept. 4th from 6-10 PM

Can you sing? Can you dance? Can you play an instrument, or do you have any other crazy or interesting talent? If so, come on out and share it with us at the Underground Refuge.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Saturday, Oct. 23rd from 6-8 PM

Theme is Bible Stories/Characters. ALL of the candy, craft supplies, and refreshments will be provided by the Underground. But, in order to make this a success, we will need several volunteers who will decorate their trunks, wear costumes, and hand out candy. There is more info in the bulletin. Please see April for more info.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays and Anniversaries *(Please call the church office if we do not have your information!)*

Birthdays:

Sept. 1 - Lilly Walker
Sept. 15 - Cara Print
Sept. 17 - Tammy Maxwell
Doug Garver Jr.
Sept. 23 - Christy Weigel
Sept. 25 - Helen Sadler
Patty Stansfield
Sept. 30 - Connie Garver



Anniversaries:

Sept. 4 - Jeremy & Amber
Arnold
Sept. 30 - Mike & Ashley
Drushell



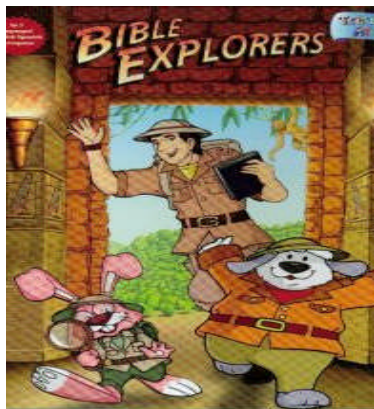
September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	2	3	4 Underground's Talent Night 6-10 PM
5 Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	6 	7 Council Mtg. 6:30 PM	8 FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL~ 4-5 YR OLDS Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	9 FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL~ 3 YR OLDS	10	11
12 Under- ground Mtg. 12:30 PM Youth & Bible Explorer Kick- Off 5:30 PM	13	14 CEC & Trustees Mtg. 6:00 PM	15 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	16	17	18 Youth Going To Cedar Point Men's Retreat
19 Youth Visit Paul Men's Bible Study 6:00 PM	20	21	22 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	23	24 Tweenagers Weiner Roast @ Parsonage	25 TEAM Jamaica Yard Sale Underground 6-10 PM
26 Baptism Service	27	28	29 Prayer Mtg. 7:00 PM	30		



Youth Kick-Off Sunday, Sept. 12 from 5:30-7:30 PM

CRAZY, MESSY GAME NIGHT! Wear old clothes and bring a change of clothes. Invite your friends! Parents are welcome, but only if they're willing to play the games. For more info see Susan Horvath.



Bible Explorers Party Sunday, Sept. 12 from 5:30-7:30 PM

Children ages 3 thru 6th Grade are invited to the first Bible Explorers meeting this fall!! There are games, crafts, snacks, and Bible stories. You don't want to miss out on this exciting time. For more info see Amber Arnold.



Friendship Party for Children ages 3 yrs old - 1st grade Sunday, Sept. 26th @ 10:00 AM



CALLING ALL KIDS 3 YEARS OLD - 1ST GRADE!!!

You are invited to a “**Friendship Party**” to get to know each other! We will have a healthy snack, games, a craft, and a Bible story.

It is sponsored by the Shining Stars Sunday School Class which meets every Sunday at 10 AM. This month they are learning about David and his *friendship* with Jonathan.

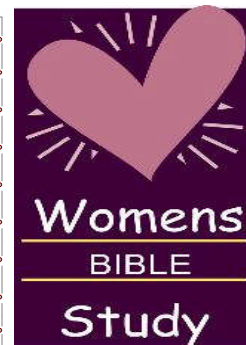
We are going to have a lot of fun!! Hope to see you there!



ALL men are invited to come to Men's Bible Study on Sunday nights at 6 PM.

Starting in September the Ladies Bible Study will resume on Tuesdays at 10 AM.

The topic will be “Battlefield of Mind” See Carole Hunley.





“Dangerous For Good” Men’s Retreat @ Whitehall Camp Sept. 17-19

All men 14 and older are welcome
(teenagers must be accompanied by an adult).

This dynamic program will untangle the unhealthy thoughts, emotions and actions that are destroying our lives, and give easy to grasp, powerful tools to defeat the enemy.

If you want to be free of unhealthy emotions like: fear, guilt, depression, lust, and anxiety... then this is one event you won’t want to miss. Come and be transformed from the inside out!

There will be free time Sat. to canoe, fish, bike, or relax.

The cost is as follows:

- ~ Conference, meals, and Semi-Private Lodging (2 person/room) - \$90
- ~ Conference, meals, and Dorm Lodging - \$70
- ~ Conference & meals - \$50

(See April for more information or a Registration Form)

TEAM Jamaica Upcoming Fundraisers:

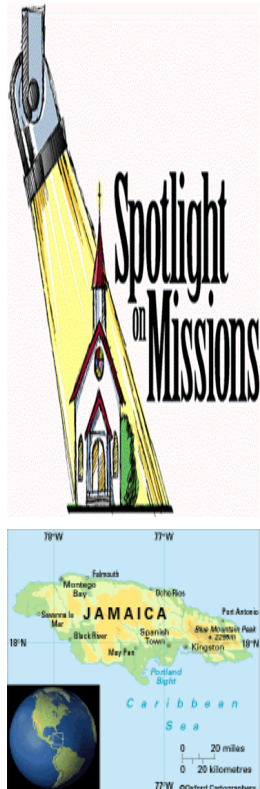
Yard Sale Saturday, Sept. 25

Please donate any good unwanted treasures and place them in the room above the kitchen.

We will pick up donations if needed.

Also be sure to stop at the sale and see if there are any treasures you would like to have.

Please contact Cami or Susan for questions or details.



Mom’s Day Out Saturday, Nov. 27

* Looking for a day to shop without the kids?

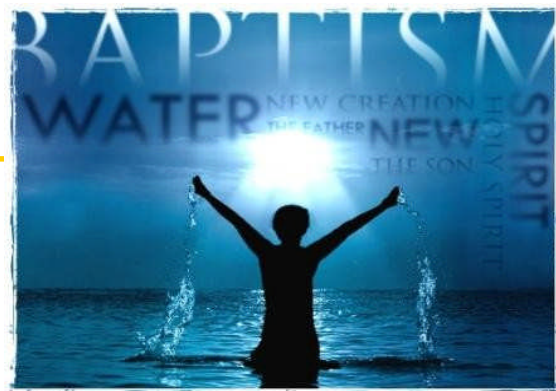
* Looking for a way to relax after the Thanksgiving Holiday?

* Just looking to spend a quiet day alone?
Well, look no more... TEAM Jamaica will be providing childcare in the Underground Refuge.

Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.

Baptism Service Sunday, Sept. 26th

Baptism is an act of obedience - a sign that we submit to God's will in our life. Anyone interested in being baptized should let Pastor Bill or Cami know as soon as possible. Thank you.



♥ ***A Special Thank You To Our Church Family:*** Thank you so much for the wonderful gift of money given to us from the candy bar sale. We will use this money for gas, ♥ lodging, food, and medicine. We want to express how grateful we are for the love and ♥ support that our entire church family has shown through this difficult time. We love each ♥ of you and miss you. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as we also remember you ♥ in ours. Love, Sharon & Paul Ross



More Youth News:

Sat., Sept. 18 @ 8 AM until early Sunday A.M. ~

“PointFest” @ Cedar Point.

Money & Permission Slip is due Sept. 18. Please give to Susan. Checks can be made out to the First Church of God Youth Group. If you would still like to come, please let Susan know A.S.A.P. and the cost is now \$23.00 plus food.

Sun., Sept. 19 (Time To Be Announced) ~

Going to Pittsburgh to visit Paul. Let's go and cheer Paul up!! More details will be given soon.



Tweenagers Weiner Roast @ The Parsonage Friday, Sept. 24th

Everyone 40 years of age and older are invited. Hotdogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs. More info in upcoming bulletins.



Hosted by Precious In
His Sight Preschool

Preschool News

We are thanking and praising God for what He has done over the summer break! We have **11 children registered** for Fall 2010 and there are still a couple more that may register before classes start in September! God is so good! The preschool would not be a success without God's blessings and the prayers and support from our church family, especially those who were on our Preschool Promotional Team, and the youth group who helped us at the carnival. Thank you all!

In order to provide these children with the best possible experience, we have two separate classes... a 4-5 year old class that runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-11:30 AM, and a 3 year old class that will run Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings 9-11:30 AM.

We have a lot of exciting and new things planned for this year, and if you would like to come in and volunteer or visit us sometime, please let Stacy or April know, and we will schedule a time.

Also, we have to thank all the guys who worked so hard on our new swing-set! Thanks guys!!! We know it was a long, hard, hot job, but you guys are AWE-SOME!!!

Please continue to pray for God's will to be done through this preschool program. We will keep you updated. Love, Stacy Gudyk and April Ross

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An Afternoon Snack that's so Easy Your Kids Can Help You Make Them!

Granola Banana Sticks

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons plus 1-1/2 teaspoons honey
- 4-1/2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons milk
- 3 medium firm bananas
- 6 Popsicle sticks
- 2 crunchy oat and honey granola bars, crushed

Directions

- In a small saucepan, combine the peanut butter, honey, brown sugar and milk; cook until heated through, stirring occasionally.
- Peel bananas and cut in half widthwise; insert a Popsicle stick into one end of each banana half. Spoon peanut butter mixture over bananas to coat completely. Sprinkle with granola. Serve immediately or place on a waxed paper-lined baking sheet and freeze. **Yield: 6 servings.**

