

Focus

Persistent Passionate Prayer
As guided by the Holy Spirit, together we
will pray fervently and expectantly for
God's will.

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Our Core Values

- Healthy Loving Relationships
- Spirit-Led Worship
- Persistent Passionate Prayer
- Empowered Servant-Leadership
- Transformational Discipleship
- Need-Based Evangelism



Let's Be HONEST

by Pastor Kurt Stout

Honesty has many forms. I've been confronted with this Orange Value word in many ways. And I'm realizing more and more that my kids are often right there with me. They are absorbing the choices I make regarding Honesty . . . and they will follow my lead on whichever path I choose. Here's one example I reluctantly decided to share with you.

I had just parked at the hospital when Hanna opened her car door and hit the truck parked next to us. I heard the sound and jumped out to see a red paint mark left on the white truck door. I sighed, and then emphatically told Hanna she was never to open the door on her own. I told her it was for her safety and the safety of the vehicles around us. I had told her before, but little hands can get excited and little minds can think they're ready for something before they really are. I'm ashamed to say what I did next, but since we're being honest, I decided not to be honest. I quickly shut Hanna's door, jumped back into the driver's seat and went looking for another parking spot away from the white truck with a red mark on its door.

*Let's be honest...
it's harder than you think.*

After finding a new place to park, I let Hanna out and said, "Do you have something to say to me?" She replied, "I'm sorry Daddy." And in my spirit I heard, "And Kurt

do you have something to say?" The walk to the hospital entrance seemed longer than usual, not just because I had given up a spot much closer to the door. I knew I needed to go back and place a note on the truck's windshield. I needed to be honest about my actions and I needed Hanna to know that we should not hide from honesty, but take responsibility for things we'd rather cover up. Just like I expect from her and the rest of my kids when something happens they don't want to fess up to.

Hanna tugged at my hand and the Holy Spirit tugged at my heart. I asked myself, "What do I want my daughter to learn from me?" And then I asked the hospital receptionist for a piece of paper. I then wrote a simple note of apology and explanation, which included my contact information. I signed the note and so did Hanna. I explained to her we needed to say "I'm sorry" to the owner of the truck.

*Hanna tugged at my
hand and the Holy Spirit
tugged at my heart.*

If I want my kids to embrace the various forms of honesty then I need to do the same. They will "throw back" what I toss their way. If I throw deception I shouldn't be surprised if that's what I get in return. But if I choose honesty, even when I'd rather not, then perhaps they'll make some tough honest choices too.

Forms of honesty may include giving your best at work, accurately filling out a form, living consistently in private and public, actually praying for someone you said you would, showing up to your kids game, refusing to make up an excuse for being late or not showing up, resisting taking credit for something you didn't do, or attentively listening to a person. Let's be honest... it's harder than you think.

Ushers In March



8:00 a.m.

Carl Petrie**
Steve White
Scott Stan
Leonard Pyle
Recruit

9:15 a.m.

Cary Walters**
Randy Moore
Matt Smith
Matt Kendall
Recruit

10:30 a.m.

Nate Dockter**
Max Ihnen
Bill Wade
Alan Lauer
Andy Cook

** Denotes head usher for that service

Any questions, please call
Carl Petrie 260-417-2246.

Prayer Cards in Pews

The green prayer cards in the pews are available for any prayer request. A group meets to pray each Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. You may place the card in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.



BLOOD PRESSURE

SCREENINGS will be on the third Sunday this month (March 20th) in Pastor Ron's office. They will be held after first and second services. Blood pressure cuffs are available for loan/check-out in the church office.



The ladies of Joyful Hearts will meet Saturday, March 26th, at the high school, at 2:00 p.m. to watch the play "Music Man."

WMS

Monday, March 7th

3:30 p.m.

At Timbercrest

Leader: Muffet Gray

Committee: Linda Immel

Lesson: God's Delight

By Vickie Taylor

All Women Are Invited

"Come see what we're all about!"



Library Lines

This month in the church library we will feature biographies. Come in and see what you can learn about Christian missionaries, leaders, sports figures, and others who have shared their stories. Take some time to reflect on your own biography and how God is helping you write it!



There will be a Baptism in the coming months. If interested please see one of the pastors.

Brethren Missions

India Pastor Profile

Mrs. Dayamani Y. (Yeluri)* works beside the Kumars at the Brethren Church in Rajahmundry, the headquarters of the Brethren Mission in India. She received a certificate of Theology from the Brethren Bible Institute, and she travels around Rajahmundry serving as an evangelist. She also has the gift of singing. Mrs. Dayamani Y. and her husband, Sudhir Mohan, have 2 children, a boy and a girl. Among her weekly activities are: Sunday School, Sunday Worship Service, Friday Fasting Prayer Meeting, and Saturday Women Prayer Fellowship. The Brethren Church in Rajahmundry currently has 746 baptized members. This church building seats about 600 people, but they have placed speakers outside where many more people can hear God's Word.

*Family Name

March Compassion Corner

T-shirts, proclaiming God's heart for justice, will be for sale at March Compassion Corner. The benefits of the t-shirts will go to help with the cost of Trever and Jasmine Jones' trip to Uganda this summer. The t-shirts will be available in orange, brown, and black, and come in a variety of sizes. March will also feature a variety of beautiful jewelry, made by women and girls rescued from slavery around the world. As always, you can stock up on fair trade chocolate and coffee.



**PERU,
SOUTH
AMERICA**
**Pastor Luis Angel
& Zoraida Morillas**

Luis Angel's birthday – March 17
Email – legolas1025@hotmail.com
Pastor Luis Angel Morillas serves as the pastor of the Lima, Peru Brethren Church. This is a congregation of approximately 40 people. They have outreach ministries to the street children and to a small fishing village called Pucasana with the aid of Katie Garner and several other young adults. The church, under the leadership of Zoraida, has established a daycare center during the week to help with finances. This is also a way for them to make connections with families in their community. Please remember and pray for Pastor Luis Angel on his birthday.

ARGENTINA, SOUTH AMERICA **Eduardo Rodriguez**

Eduardo's birthday – January 25
Thomas' birthday – March 5
Camila's birthday – March 17
Email – sts@wiscom.com.ar
Eduardo Rodriguez oversees the South American Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They train men and women to be Christian leaders and pastors. Students come from different countries in South America, and after completing their training they return to their homes to establish churches. Since the death of his wife to cancer, he is raising his children as a single dad. Birthday greetings to his son and daughter this month would be a great encouragement to Eduardo. Pray for this family.

Living Life in the Shelter of Each Other

Upon arriving in my office this Tuesday morning, I flipped the page of my inspirational calendar to read this: *Having someone who understands you is home. Having someone who loves you is belonging. Having both is a blessing.* This sounds like what Dr. Sharon Hart May would call a “safe haven” in marriage. According to Dr. May, a “safe haven” is (a) *caring, connected relationship where you are each heard, understood, valued and a source of love and comfort for each other.* It is *living life in the shelter of each other.* I believe this is God’s plan for married couples. A workshop I attended last week outlined the following key building blocks for building a safe haven:

1. **Being chosen and committed**—Out of all the people you knew, you chose to marry your spouse. Even if there was an unplanned pregnancy or pressure involved with the decision to marry, you picked him/her. “I chose you and I am committed to us.”
2. **Feeling trust**—Partners wonder, “Can I trust you with my heart?” Be careful during marital conflict; you are holding your spouse’s heart. You have the power to heal or hurt the one closest to you.
3. **Being available and physically and emotionally attuned**—Are you looking at your spouse when he talks or watching for text messages? Are you turning away or toward your spouse? Are you interested in what he thinks about his day?
4. **Being responsive**—Partners wonder, “Do you see me? Are you listening? Do I matter?” Are you emotionally predictable to your spouse? Are you responding in a way that will nurture the “us” in a marriage?
5. **Promoting repair of disconnections**—According to Dr. May, all couples argue. How can you turn toward your spouse and help soften her and draw her back toward you after an argument? Returning to the safe haven in marriage is key.
6. Remember **we are all on the road to becoming** – Know your spouse’s vulnerabilities and protect them. We become tired or sick, making us more vulnerable to selfishness or self protective behaviors. Based upon our personalities and past experiences, we become angry, hurt or defensive. Christians are in the process of becoming who God wants us to be. This is where grace enters in. “I know you are trying to do what’s best for us. It was an ‘off’ day. Tomorrow is another day.”

This next year, I am hoping to become certified in Emotion Focused Therapy and build on Dr. May’s Haven of Safety principles. In the meantime, if you are interested in working toward a safe haven in your marriage, give me a call. Dr. May’s material can be viewed at www.havenofsafety.com or argue@havenofsafety.com.



Congratulations to Joel and Sarah Harting on the birth of their son, Elijah Brody, born Thursday, February 10th, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz., and measuring 19¾ in. long. He joins the family with brother Gavin. Proud FBC grandparents are Lance & Glenda Christiansen and Chandis & Donna Boomershine.

Congratulations to Matt & Jeri Purdy on the birth of their daughter, Adilyn Grace, born Thursday, February 17th. She weighed 6 lbs 14 oz, and measured 18½ in. long. She joins the family with big sister Savannah. Proud grandparents are Gary & Rosie Purdy.

Mission Trip Fundraisers

Painting Services Offered

Trever and Jasmine Jones are planning to go on a mission trip this coming summer. In preparation, Trever is offering to do painting to raise funds. Contact him at 260-228-0551 or worship247@live.com to schedule your winter project.



Truffles for Sale *Extended Sales!*

Stacy Bashore and her daughter Jordan are planning a trip to Ecuador through the Never The Same Mission group the summer of 2011. To raise funds they will be selling homemade truffles in 8 varieties. Call Stacy at 982-7325 to put your order in for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, weddings, graduations or no special occasion, just to treat yourself.

Information Cards

As some of you perhaps have noticed, the red registration books that were at the end of the pews are no longer in use. The information obtained from these books was primarily for the purpose of knowing who might be newcomers. We have found a more effective way of obtaining that information through a visitor's card handed to them and asking them to fill it out. This gives a personal contact with an individual from the congregation. These welcome cards are on the foyer table by the bulletins and at the back of the sanctuary on the ledge of the projection booth. Anyone is welcome to hand these out to newcomers they may be sitting near in any service. With your help and the staff's collaborative awareness we are also able to visually monitor attendance patterns of other members of the congregation. If you notice someone absent from church please take initiative to give that person a call and/or inform a staff member so we may check in with our church family.

Our Deepest Sympathy *Our deepest sympathies to the family of Jackie Lee Ferrell (Daddy-Jack), step-father of Rick Grindle, who passed away Tuesday, February 15th.*

Freedom Sunday: March 13th

First Brethren Church will join with hundreds of other places of worship around the world on this special day to pray, sing, and proclaim freedom for the oppressed.

This worship service empowers the worshiper to move out beyond awareness to action.

Wear your orange! Orange is also the color of FREEDOM!

LOOKING
AHEAD
APRIL

Lower Lights
Riverside Christian School
Sunday, April 10th

FAITH IN ACTION
Be Thinking of a Project

Communion
Thursday, April 21st

Easter Services
Sunday, April 24th

Camp Sign-Up
Coming May 1st

MARCH

Birthdays

- 1 – Jo Montel
Joe Stacy
Brooke Pratt
- 2 – Helen Conrad
- 4 – Bailey Michel
- 5 – Keaton Patrick
Kendra McKinley
Toni Willmert
- 6 –Jorgan Montel
- 8 –Brittany Fratus
Traci Cummins
Brian Ramer
- 9 –Paul Kerschner
- 10 – Tyler Watson
Nate Trump
- 11 – Caroline Clifton
- 12 – Linda Warner
Roger Metzger
- 13 – Trista Coy
- 14 – Kathy Wade
- 15 – Ashton Moore
Addi Bordeaux
- 16 – Kayla Blocher
Alayna Miller
- 17 – Jim Baker
- 18 – Melissa Miller
- 20 – Sandy Burch
Bill Medley
- 21 – Jacob Semler
Shannon Cook
- 22 – Jeremy Bradley
- 23 – David Immel
Kendra Niccum
Candice Music
- 24 – Whitney Dennison
- 25 – Craig Walters
Tabitha Floor
Ben Vineyard

- 26 – Ray Felgar
Rebecca Clifton
- 27 –Caleb Stout
- 28 – Joseph Chapman
Sarah Harting
Cody Semler
- 29 – Joshua Watson
- 31 – Jay Warner
Krisy Mize

Anniversaries

- 15 – Jim & Jean Erickson '80
- 16 – Brett & Dee Patrick '84
- 19 – Bill & Denise Leonhard '99
- 22 – Josh & Katie Cumberland '08
Tom & Marieta Steele '61
- 24 – Jim & Shirley Mishler '56
- 26 – Joseph & Janice Chapman '83
- 29 – Adam and Stacy Bashore '08
- 30 – Steve & Amy Lambert '02
- 31 – Todd & Dianne Floor '71

How Great Is Our God?

In his book One Thing: Developing a Passion for the Beauty of God, Sam Storms encourages readers to focus on God rather than their problems and circumstances. He believes that the soul was designed for the joyful contemplation of the glory of God. And where is one of the places where this glory is seen? *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* Psalm 19:1.

To illustrate how the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims His handiwork, Storms points out some facts about the universe which lead us to consider how great our God is. **How fast is fast?** A light year is the distance light travels in a year, which is six trillion miles, or the equivalent of about 12,000,000 round trips to the moon. **How far is far?** The nearest star to us (besides the sun) is a system of three called Alpha Centauri, and the closest of those is Proxima Centauri, 4.3 light years from earth. Traveling on a jet going 500 mph nonstop 24/7, we would make it there in six million years. The closest galaxy in our cosmic neighborhood is the Andromeda Galaxy, which is 2.5 million light years away, and the jet trip would take 4.2 trillion years. And according to Storms, the farthest point that our telescopes have been able to detect is approximately 13 billion light years from earth.

How many is many? Storms says that on the best of nights the naked eye can see perhaps 4,000 stars. But our Milky Way galaxy contains from 150 to 200 billion stars. And we are only one galaxy among some 150 billion others, each with tens upon tens of billions of stars. There is a galaxy known as Virgo with more than five trillion stars to itself. God made them all, and, as Storms

points out, even named each one. *He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.* Psalm 147:4.

How big is big? Our sun is 864,000 miles in diameter, or more than 100 earths across. One of the biggest stars in our galaxy is known as Eta Carinae. Its diameter is more than 400 million miles, or close to 500 times the diameter of the sun. **How bright is bright?** Storms writes that astronomers have recently discovered what they called the Pistol Star, which glows with the energy of ten million of our suns. In the constellation named Cassiopeia there was a star named Cassiopeia A which blew up about 330 years ago. When it exploded it shined with the brightness of 100 billion of our suns. **How heavy is heavy?** Storms says that white dwarf stars contain matter one million times as dense and hard as steel. Neutron stars are quite small, as stars go, often no more than ten miles across. But they contain more mass than our sun. One teaspoonful of their matter weighs three billion tons, or the equivalent of stuffing a herd of 50 million elephants into a thimble.

Storms writes, “The vast, immense, incalculable, unfathomable size of what I’ve just described would be, at best, a microscopic speck on the tip of God’s outstretched finger!” He asks, “Do you realize how easily faith comes when you have a God like this?” When you’re becoming overwhelmed by your problems and circumstances, just look up and “gaze upon His handiwork;” how great is our God.

Ron Burns, Discipleship Coordinator
(All Scripture references ESV)

Children's Ministry

Weaving Faith into our Daily Lives Everyday

..... Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day!

If you are still in school, it is important to wear green on Saint Patrick's Day and sometimes eat green food. But what should we really know about Saint Patrick?

Although most agree that the stories have been exaggerated over the years, Patrick was born British and around 16 was taken captive by Irish Warriors for six years. While being held, he was often alone shepherding sheep. Alone, he turned to God and became a devout Christian. God planted a seed in his heart for the Irish people. After escaping back to Britain, he began his religious training for 15 years. He then returned as a Missionary to Ireland and began to teach the people. He is famous for using a 3 leaf clover to explain the trinity to the Irish people.

So this year, on March 17, don't necessarily buy "Kiss Me I'm Irish" buttons, but maybe chat over green food at dinner about how God uses every situation, how God has a plan for our lives, bring up what a Missionary does, and what the trinity is. Use each day to Impress God into our lives.

www.history.com

Garden 0-1 We are continuing to learn about creation and what God has made!

Garden 2's We are learning from the book of Matthew! This month our theme is "I can help" with our story about the 4 friends who bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Parents reinforce this with ways your 2-year-old can help at home.

Garden 3-Kindergarteners will be learning that we can pray to Jesus anywhere and anytime this month. Parents help reinforce this with your child by praying at different times and places with them than you usually do. Check the back of your take home paper for more ideas. Our verse we are focusing on this month is: James 5:16b, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" - Sung to the tune of: Jesus Loves Me.

This month in **LOFT** we will be "Swingin' in the Kingdom" as we listen to what Jesus has to say to Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, and how He teaches us to pray. Our new memory verse for the Spring quarter is learning the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 and the challenge will be memorizing the New Testament books. We hope everyone in your family will practice at home and learn these together.

Our LOFT keyword is *Follow*- we will focus on following Jesus and discovering what is important in *His* kingdom. LOFT offerings will go to Camp Shipshewana to help keep all the great experiences we have there. Watch for more details to come as we have attendance incentives for March - Make sure you're here!



Club RIOT (3 yrs-4th grade)/K.F.C. (5th & 6th grade)

Family Night is Wednesday, March 2nd, from 6:30-7:45.

Come have a fabulous night of BEENGO with us!

Club de Niño's (Kids Club) meets Wednesday night during the Hispanic Service as their Sunday School and as an activity night on Mondays while their parents are in class. We will be working on what it means to pray.

K.F.C. (5th & 6th graders) More than a Movie Night! We will be meeting in the K.F.C. room on Friday, March 25th from 6:00-8:00. Bring yourself, your friends, and a drink to share. Popcorn provided.

Camp Shipshewana - Plan on our Annual Camp Sign-Up Day on May 1st - right after the 3rd Service. There will be camp games and activities for the kids, and a time for all questions to be answered for Parents. If you sign up and pay on this day (or before) you will qualify for a 10% early bird discount. Each year our church pays $\frac{1}{2}$ the registration cost for one camp for each of our kids to the Brethren Retreat Center. Look at the sign-up sheet on the door by the LOFT for dates and times.

VBS -Mark your calendars for **August 1-5, 2011**

FB C YOUTH MINISTRY

Weekly Schedule

CHAOS (7th-8th Grades) meets on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:45 at *La Casa*

Ekklesia (9th-12th Grades) meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 at the Town Life Center

****Through the end of this school year, Ekklesia will be meeting at the Town Life Center!***

Orange Parents (Parents of Teens) meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 east end of the Fellowship Hall



eklesia
"More Than a Building."

Junior High Party @ Chapmans'

707 N Wayne St

Monday, March 7 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Pizza and Games - Bring a snack to share.

Stuck in the Middle Junior High Retreat

(something *just* for junior high students!)

Friday-Saturday, April 29-30, Dayton, OH

Cost is \$85. *Deadline to have your money turned in is Sunday, April 3rd.

Are you 16-20 years old? Do you want to significantly deepen your relationship with Christ? Then **consider attending Faith Quest this spring, Friday, March 25 thru Sunday, March 27**. If you have questions, talk to Pastor Tim ASAP!

D. R. Mission Trip Team

By the beginning of March:

- Your fundraising letters need to have been mailed out.
- Your passport application needs to have been turned in.
- You need to have turned in another \$100 to cover your portion of the trip.

- We have a MANDATORY team meeting Sunday, March 20. It will start at 11:45 a.m. and end by 1:30 p.m.



It's not too early to start thinking about this summer's Youth Conference at Ashland. It's one of the best things about summer, and our church covers half your cost!

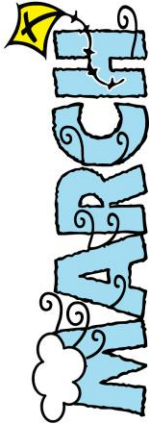
Here are the details: July 13-17 in Ashland, OH. Get your registration turned in to Pastor Tim by Sunday, May 15 and you only pay \$140. Get it turned in by Sunday, June 12 and you pay \$165. Cost goes up to \$190 after that.

For more specifics on the week and for a printable registration, go to <http://byic.org!>



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