

The Cito Fellowship News

A Newsletter of the Cito United Methodist Church

Donald R. Bard, Pastor

(717) 485-4318

www.citoumc.org



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Trustees' Report

The trustees of the church meet to address the issues that face our church each month. First on the agenda in February was the fact that we need to rent the house we own next door. The previous tenant has moved out. We advertised the property and accepted applications, but we have not chosen a tenant yet and are still open to anyone you may have in mind.

We will also be doing some outside work at the church when the weather is warmer. We have not yet set a date for a work day.

The trustees are asking for volunteers to help with these projects.

Thank you to those who volunteered to do the snow blowing and to Larry Carbaugh for plowing the parking lots. We have many caring wonderful people in our church and your help doesn't go unnoticed by God. Thank you all so very much.

It was reported that soon we will have another stained glass window. Shelia Bivens is making the windows.

If you have issues that you wish to bring to the trustees' attention, please talk to one and they will relay the issues at the next meeting.

A Note from the Growth Committee

We would like more input from the congregation about all aspects of the church. In April you will receive weekly surveys with the worship bulletin to complete that morning. This will give you the chance to voice your opinion anonymously. We will give the results to Pastor Bard and the new pastor. We hope to use this information to see what we need to improve.

Scrapbooking Day Planned

The first scrapbooking day will be held April 9 at noon in the fellowship hall. A Creative Memories consultant will be here from 2-3 to give us an idea for a page. Please bring your scrapbook supplies and join us. If you're planning to come, please notify Brandi Mellott by April 6.

Upper Room Available

Extra copies of the March-April issue of the Upper Room are in the narthex. Please take one and use it for your daily devotions.

Volunteers Needed to Paint

The trustees need your help in sprucing up the rental house. We are asking that you get together at least 3 or 4 people and choose a room in the house to paint. We will remove the nails and do the spackling. There are four bedrooms and the hallways upstairs. On the first floor, the living room, dining room, and hallway need painted. We want to have it ready to rent by April 1.

The trustees will provide the paint, drop cloths and tape. We would like you to bring the brushes, etc., since you may have certain brushes, rollers, and trays that you like to use. If you need us to supply those items, please call Janet Souders at 485-4382.

There will be a sign-up sheet for painting and other miscellaneous jobs. Please help us save money by volunteering to help with this project. Thank you so much in advance.

Readers' Highlights for March

Adult: *The Proposal*

Set in London in 1810, William Jennings, a bachelor, must learn to care for three children after a relative dies.

Youth: *A Heart full of Hope*

Christy is starting her junior year of high school, and she has a new boyfriend. But her parents restrict her freedom. What will she do?

Children: *Joseph's Book of Colors*

See God's rainbow in this cute book about color.

You can find this month's selection for check-out in the library. Please return the books within two weeks.

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Jeff and Joy Ritchey who welcomed Josiah Andruie into their family January 15, 2005.

Gary and Donna Johnston are the proud grandparents of Campbelle Mae, who was born to Heather and Corey Dayley December 13, 2004.

Attendance for February

	<u>Feb. 6</u>	<u>Feb. 13</u>	<u>Feb. 20</u>	<u>Feb. 27</u>
Worship	133	122	102	149
Sunday School	46	56	46	56



Pastor's Letter



Greetings to Our Church Family,

The scriptures tell us that Christians are to follow the example and teachings of Christ. Since he was the perfect, sinless Son of God and we are prone to lose our way, we question how to fulfill this charge. There may be those around us that seem to have it figured out. They are bigger than life. Their lives are always filled with joy. No bad thing seems to ever stalk their path. They appear to be victorious in the struggles of life. They may be getting it right, but we aren't. We often battle temptations and suffer defeat. For us it is a constant battle to even stay in the struggle.

If you have been in the church long, you have heard the phrase, "What does the Bible say?"

Do the scriptures address our dilemma? Has anyone else known our battles?

St. Paul wrote to a church in Rome that was populated by many Gentiles. These new Christians had been converted from paganism. Jewish laws and ways were foreign to them. Their teachers had taught them about the holiness of God. They were trying to be good but found it difficult. Many were beginning to doubt if salvation for them was even a possibility.

To this struggling Church, Paul wrote words of

instruction and encouragement. In the seventh chapter of Romans, Paul tells of his own struggles. He said, "...I want to do good, evil is right there with me... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" Paul assures us that it is through our faith in Christ that we are made right with God. A Christian lives a good life to honor Christ, to be a witness of God's redeeming grace. It is not our "goodness," that saves and keeps us. It is rather his mercy, grace and forgiveness.

In this Season of Lent, let us each search our own hearts. Are we attempting to gain heaven by our own merits, or have we thrown ourselves totally on the mercy of God? If he is the love of our life, are we striving to please him? Perhaps our lives would know real joy if we trusted in him and not in ourselves. Walk with him. He is your most faithful friend.

May God bless you in this Lenten Season as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

In Christ's Service,

Donald R. Bard

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For the Prayer Chain, call Beverly Smith at 485-3862.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 Revival—7PM Lainnie Glenn's Birthday	14 Revival—7PM Brandon Morton's Birthday	15 Revival—7PM Kathy Gracey's Birthday	16 Revival and Refreshments—7PM John & Doris Hennen's Anniv.	17 St. Patrick's Day Women's Bible Study—9:15AM Elaina Swope & Pat Booth's Birthdays	18 Connie Richards & Ben Binder's Birthdays	19
20 Palm Sunday First Day of Spring	21 Church Growth Committee—7PM Martha Mowen's Birthday	22 Trustee Meeting—7PM Terry Buterbaugh & Quentin Remsburg's Birthdays	23 Choir Practice—7PM Wendy Strait, Reed Richards, & Katelyn Ketterman's Birthdays	24 Maundy Thursday—7PM @ McCbg	25 Good Friday Movie: <i>Passion of the Christ</i> —7PM Ryan Earley's Birthday	26
27 Easter Newsletter Info Due	28	29 Kate Carbaugh's Birthday	30 Choir Practice—7PM	31	1 Larry Cree Carbaugh's Birthday	2