

The Ceresco Messenger

March 2015

Pastor's Pen

THE NAIL: Over the last few weeks, I have been looking at the nail on my desk. Most of you will remember the nail that was given to you a few Sundays back.

I was reading a devotional in my "Upper Room" book. The scripture is found in Exodus 3:1-14. The verse that spoke to me is Exodus 3:14, it reads as follows: God said to Moses, "I Am Who I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I Am has sent me to you." We can look up and see Jesus nailed to the cross. That's where it hit me, the nail upon my desk. Jesus is God in the flesh, taking on my sins, forgiving me of all my wrongs. Jesus is the God of I Am Who I Am. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, the God of Who I am is found in all the gospels. Through the gospels in the New Testament, God is showing us His true character, through His Son Jesus Christ. God reveals His love for us by teaching us through His Word. God through His Son Jesus is the I Am for protection and healing of mind and body.

For God is also the I Am of the Holy Spirit. Through the I Am of the Holy Spirit, God talks and walks with us, teaches us of His Holy ways & truths, and guides us for the betterment of God's Kingdom. The I Am of God found in the Holy Spirit guides us in the way of the truth and the life.

The God of I Am is in control of all things that take place in a falling world. There is nothing that the God of I Am cannot handle. For me, I believe in the Cross of Salvation. My faith and belief rest upon the Cross of Calvary! That nail that lies on my desk is my bench mark; a nail driven through my Savior. A bench mark that I pray will always be my security when I am weak, for I know Who is strong.

May God bless you and your family, Pastor Gary.



ARE YE ABLE? Said the Master

On the news they are reporting the persecution and execution of Christians, both adults and children, because they will not denounce their faith in Christ. I have to ask myself, “if I were in that situation, would I let fear take over, or would I be solid in my faith and not falter”? In many situations the only difference we can make is with ourselves, perhaps showing more of Jesus and our faith hoping it will make a difference for others. I occasionally pass a sign that says, “the only Bible some people may read is you”. BUT WAIT!! Isn’t our Christianity slowly being put under the rug? Group Bible studies are being taken out of the schools and “don’t be caught carrying a Bible”, you might offend someone. Many public gatherings or organizations have denounced praying (in the name of Jesus) and public places are being told to remove pictures of Jesus and the Ten Commandments. You may know of other instances that come to mind.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:32-33, “Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in heaven”. In Luke 22:34 Jesus is telling Peter of his faltering faith. Peter assures the Lord that he will follow Him to prison and to death. Jesus answers him, “Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you ever knew Me”. In Luke 22:54-62 we read the account of Peter denying his knowing Jesus several times.

AND THE ROOSER CROWS

We know the rest of the story. Peter’s faith is renewed and he becomes a powerful leader and a pillar of the church. It reminds me of an old familiar hymn, “Are Ye Able Said The Master, To Be Crucified With Me”. It’s easy to say while we’re in our comfortable ways, “no problem Lord!” believing we will never have to face that depth of persecution.

“Yea the sturdy dreamers answered to the cross we’ll follow Thee”! And I ask myself - “am I able?”

RECYCLE, REUSE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CHURCH

DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS (Secret Place, Daily Devotionals, etc.)

Kay Davis is still sending devotional material to Friendship House. The box has been relocated to the table near the coat rack in the narthex (front entrance). This is an excellent way to provide others with devotional materials that you are finished with.

SPARTAN AND CAMPBELL SOUP UPC’S, BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION, CALENDARS.

The Spartan and Campbell Soup UPC’s and Box Tops for Education collection boxes are on the table near the coat rack in the narthex (front entrance).

Bessie Ivey collects wall calendars for an assisted living facility.

BIBLES

The Haven of Rest in Battle Creek would like an excess Bibles.

Evening Bible Study - *“Following Jesus: The Discipleship Manual”* starts up March 10th. We will meet for 10 weeks, and then take a break, and resume again in the fall for the remaining 10 lessons. Bible Study will be on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm.

Church Attendance:

Feb 1 ~ 28; Feb 8 ~ 52; Feb 15 ~ 34; Feb 22 ~ 47



The West Area Churches will again combine for a special Palm Sunday Worship service. This is a joyous, wonderful, and inspirational gathering as we assemble our various ministry gifts as a diverse body of believers. We anticipate that this year will be no different. Lakeview Baptist Church located at 7 S. 20th St., Battle Creek, and Pastor Adam Metzger will serve as the host site this year.

The Michigan Servants for Christ will be going to Haiti March 2-10 to replace a roof on a widow's home. The West Area has 2 churches with 5 individuals making the journey. In an act of support, the West Area gave \$1000 to be used by those congregations. So we are asking that each church give in the offering on Palm Sunday to replenish and provide future funds for support to the work of ministry in ABC. Whatever amount you can contribute, please do so. Make checks payable to ABC West Area.

This special worship service will start promptly at 5:00 pm and a repast will take place following the service. There will be special music provided by several people, which includes our Cerestrio (Sharon Hadley/Joanne Henley/Mary Ivey).



Bridget Holder & Boy Scout Troop #4309
cordially invite you to attend the
Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jason Holder
Saturday, March 21st, 2 pm at Paragon Charter Academy
3750 McCain Road, Jackson, MI 49201
Reception following ceremony. RSVP by March 14th to
Bridget at 517 782-6806 or holderb13@aol.com

MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday	2 Scouts 7 pm	3 Bible Study 10 am	4	5	6	7 Church Breakfast 8:00 am Admin Council 9am
8 Daylight Savings Time begins	9 Scouts 7 pm	10 Bible Study 10 am EMT 5 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm	11 WMT 5:00 pm Martha Circle 6:30 pm	12	13	14
15	16 Scouts 7 pm	17 Bible Study 10 am, 6 pm	18 Family Night Potluck, 6:30 St Paddy meal!	19	20	21 CHURCH IN USE
22	23	24 Bible Study 10 am, 6 pm	25 Information for the March Messenger due by noon.	26 Worship Ministry Team Mtg 5:30pm	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Brunch, Fellowship	30	31 Bible Study 10 am, 6 pm	April 1	April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm	April 3 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm	April 4 No Men's Breakfast this month

Palm Sunday Brunch

Church family, we will again have our **Annual Palm Sunday Brunch** on Sunday March 29th following the morning worship service. The meal will be provided by the Deacon Ministry Team. There will be a sign up sheet on the glass case to let us know how many from your family plan to attend so that we have plenty of food.

Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, April 5th, we will have a "Son Rise" service at 8:00 am, followed with refreshments (donuts and something to drink), and then we will have our regular worship service at 9:45 am.

Please join us for these special times of fellowship!

American Baptist Women's BOOK OF THE MONTH for March 2015

Introduction to Ezekiel

A star is best seen at night. This clearly exemplifies Ezekiel's life and presence among his people in an age of war and uncertainty. During stormy times, he stood alone as a beacon to guide and direct those who were falling.

Ezekiel was not only a prophet who had many God-given visions, but he had personal vision, fortitude, and the ability to look beyond his present day circumstances.

Known as the "watchman," Ezekiel probably completed this book by 565 B.C. In a series of prophetic messages, Ezekiel devoted his life to warning of the impending judgment coming upon the nation of Judah. Ezekiel's time was an era of desperation, when surrounding nations were rising in conflict with each other, only those with a strong faith in God would be certain to endure. Ezekiel, whose name means "Strengthened by God," continually and confidently served as a shining light in the nation's darkest hour--the destruction of the temple by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B. C. and the subsequent Babylonian captivity. During their captivity, Ezekiel reminded the people that as certain as judgment had come upon them, so would God's comfort and blessings. The prophet believed that failure is never final, God's love is!

During the captivity, surrounded by negative influences, Ezekiel built up the hopes of the people of returning to their land and rebuilding the temple of God. In the midst of affliction, Ezekiel gave the people God's vision for victory!

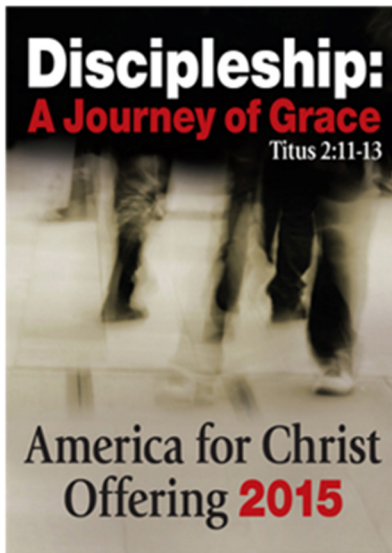
"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you," (Ezek. 36:26)

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Anyone that would like to provide Easter Lilies for the sanctuary may bring them March 22nd through the Easter season.

We would love to have several lilies decorating the sanctuary!



“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2: 11-13

Our AMERICA FOR CHRIST theme this year is *“Discipleship: A Journey of Grace,”* based on Titus 2:11-13. It is a wonderful reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. On each day of his journey, the compassion of Jesus was felt by someone somewhere. Our gifts support Christ-centered transformational ministries that manifests the grace of God’s love to neighborhoods and communities by touching lives and transforming people across the United States and Puerto Rico--through evangelism training, church renewal and discipleship resources, volunteer disaster response plus initiatives that fight poverty and so much more.

As we read the gospels, we are presented with a loving Lord as someone who does things, not someone who did things. One of the greatest dangers of Christianity is to think of Jesus as someone to be remembered, instead of someone to be met and experienced. As the church in the 21st century, our calling is to help people see the power of the risen Christ in action today.

Our goal for the America for Christ Offering is \$400. There are special envelopes in the pews. Thank you!

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Ceresco Baptist Church ~ Administrative Council Meeting MINUTES ~ March 7, 2015 ~ 9:00 a.m.

Prayer by Roger Sommers – Devotions by Joy Sommers

Clerks Report: Joy Sommers

1. Minutes from December meeting were in Messenger
- Website now includes links to download the monthly Messenger (Jan 2015 forward)
(www.cerescobaptist.org)
3. Church is setup for reporting closings on WWMT, also a notice on our web page
- All email to Joy regarding church matters, please send to: CerescoBaptist@gmail.com

Treasurers Report: Mary Ivey

Report distributed & discussed.

Pastoral Relations Committee

Next meeting April 21, 2015, 6 pm – need to change the time to 5 if that works for all. If not, will need to change the date. Rest of week available at the moment.

Members: Don St. John (Chair), Stacey Goodman, Art Wood, Darlene Anthony, Joy Sommers.

Property Management Ministry Team: Rick Frey

Parsonage Roof – due to waiting for warmer weather, the cost has increased by \$300. Rick has to sign the contract, and then will give to Mary Ivey so ½ down can be paid.

Furnace – been having issues with the big furnaces – should be resolved now.

Jim Olds – Rick has talked with Jim about hauling road gravel into the side parking lot for a fee of \$6/yard. Jim will load the dump truck, and provide equipment to level it out. Will do this once the ground has thawed. Will have a work day to do this.

Enbridge is going to be monitoring the wells around the properties in Ceresco. When the weather breaks, there will be some work done along the shoreline where it was extended.

Roger mentioned that all the Enbridge-owned properties in Ceresco have been sold, and they no longer own any properties in Ceresco.

We won't have parking in the rear of the church anymore because of the septic tank being located there. Will put in a concrete walkway along the side of the church to the concrete pad in the back.

Thank you to all that have helped with snow cleanup.

Deacon Ministry Team: Rob Kidder/Linda Cole

1. Considering apprentice deacon -
2. Feed the soul – food distribution – Putting the Secret Place in the boxes with the food.
3. Funeral dinners – provided desserts for Skip's service, deacons delivered to Robin's Nest for those that couldn't get there.
4. Deacon Chairs for 2015: Jan/Feb Art Wood, Mar/Apr Linda Chisholm, May/June Gretchen King, July/Aug Linda Cole, Sept/Oct Roger Sommers, Nov/Dec Rob Kidder.
5. Palm Sunday Brunch – will be a sign up sheet for how many will be attending.
6. Easter Sunday – rolls/drinks between the services.
7. Closing of Church (Sunday Worship Service) - bad weather – Pastor checks the weather early on Sunday mornings to see how the roads are. Pastor will call Lay Moderator, deacons, and Rick (for plowing) to make a decision. Decision will be reached by 7 am.

Worship Ministry Team: Joanne Henley

Starting March 22nd, we would like to have Easter lilies in the sanctuary.

Palm Sunday Service at Lakeview Baptist at 5 pm (3/29/15)

Palm Sunday – Mary/Diana play the “Palms” song

Maundy Thursday Service here at CBC at 6:30 pm on April 2nd. Newton will bring a bell choir. (Choir practice 3/28 @ 2 pm)

Choir Practice at 9 am on 3/29 for Easter service

Easter – “Son-rise” service at 8 am, refreshments, then regular service at 9:45 am

Singing all verses & chorus after each verse for all hymns now

March 15: Opening: A Hill Called Mt Calvary; Closing: For God So Loved the World

Easter (4/5): Opening: There is Joy this Easter Morning (v2,3); Closing: verse 1

April 12th: Opening: When I Think of Calvary; Closing: He Is Lord

Next WMT meeting is March 26th at 5:30 pm

Good Friday service at 6:30 pm here at Ceresco Baptist.

Opening of services – people taking turns lighting the candles at the start of the worship service right after the ringing of the bells, before the opening song. Will put sign up sheet on bulletin board.

Educational Ministry Team. : Joy Sommers

1. Sign-up sheet for Junior Church – Phyllis has volunteered to help.

2. Next Youth Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th, 10 am – 2 pm Easter/Spring theme

3. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 10th at 5:00 pm – planning for Youth Day

Family Nights have been well attended. March 18th is the next one (“St Paddy Dinner”) – Church will provide corned beef/potatoes/carrots – others bring passing dish, table service, and beverage.

ABW: Joy Sommers

1. It's the 100th Anniversary of American Baptist Ministry with Girls

March 8th is International Women's Day (started in 1975 by the United Nations)

Missions: Joy Sommers

1. Updates from Tim & Patti Long, Wayne & Katherine Niles, Angela Sommers -put on bulletin board

Men's work: Upcoming project will be kitchen renovations

Pastor's Report:

1. Pastor gave an update on the meetings/visits/Bible Study/peer group meetings, etc that he did from December through February.

Meeting with Pastor Kingery on March 11th regarding the Maundy Thursday service.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE: Roger Sommers

Planning to move forward with kitchen work this spring, after Easter & Youth Day; may be times when kitchen is not usable due to work that needs to be done.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN ITEMS:

1. Annual Report for 2014 – distribute, motion by Mary Ivey, 2nd by Linda Cole to accept reports as presented.

2. America for Christ Offering – Goal is \$400

3. Need to plan next Swiss Steak Supper – shoot for the fall.

Jason Holder's Eagle Scout Court of Honor, March 21st.

NEXT MEETING: June 6, 2015 at 9 am after Church Breakfast.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Mar 1 | Tommy Burke | Apr 1 | Emily Biljum |
| Mar 3 | Derek Holtz | Apr 4 | Alicia Beck |
| Mar 4 | Chris (Chip) MacCrossen | Apr 5 | Gary Heidrich |
| Mar 4 | Garrett Skinner | Apr 6 | Zane Allen Ivey |
| Mar 9 | Brian Markos | Apr 7 | Kevin Smith |
| Mar 9 | Ron Chisholm | Apr 9 | Emily Holtz |
| Mar 9 | Monica Entsminger | Apr 10 | Jenny Markos |
| Mar 10 | Barb Griffin | Apr 11 | Jase Casey |
| Mar 11 | Ruth St. John | Apr 11 | Shannon Smith |
| Mar 12 | Denise Green | Apr 12 | Eric Schlee |
| Mar 13 | Martin Coats | Apr 12 | Michelle Hatton |
| Mar 13 | Lucas Finch | Apr 12 | Patty Lutz |
| Mar 13 | Bill Westphal | Apr 13 | Lindsey Casey |
| Mar 14 | Jada Haroff | Apr 13 | Ruth Paschen |
| Mar 15 | Joanne Henley | Apr 13 | Irene Raabe |
| Mar 15 | Vi Halder | Apr 14 | Charity Gary |
| Mar 18 | Brayden Entsminger | Apr 14 | Reed Branson Goodman |
| Mar 18 | Pam Kirkland | Apr 16 | Darlene Anthony |
| Mar 20 | Deborah Beltz | Apr 19 | Stephany Hatton |
| Mar 21 | Bill Raabe | Apr 19 | Don St. John |
| Mar 21 | Mike Halverson | Apr 24 | Stacey (Frey) Goodman |
| Mar 22 | Cassidy Perkins | Apr 24 | Hasley Moore |
| Mar 22 | Danny Sommers | Apr 24 | Scotie Wood |
| Mar 27 | Sarah (Frey) Collins | Apr 27 | Albert Anthony |
| Mar 29 | McKenzie Babcock | Apr 27 | Nathan Tuttle |
| Mar 30 | Jody Davis | Apr 28 | Linda Schlee |
| | | Apr 29 | Jeannette Glen |
| | | Apr 30 | Katie Anthony |



Happy Anniversary!



- | | | | |
|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Mar 8 | Albert & Margie Cole | Apr 4 | Rick & Dawn Frey |
| Mar 24 | Bill & Laurann Frey | Apr 5 | Roger & Joy Sommers |
| | | Apr 20 | Bill & Kelli Holgram |

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Gary Schooler

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(517) 522-4645 (Home)

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The Ceresco Messenger

God loves you,

And so do we!

~ Ceresco Baptist Church

Church Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:45 am

Sunday School 11:00 am

Bible Study Tuesdays 10 am

Bible Study Tuesdays 6 pm

Family Night Potluck

3rd Wednesday 6:30 pm



American Baptist

CHURCHES of MICHIGAN

Loving God and leading strong.

Together.