

Johnny on the Spot

It's a new year with new possibilities surrounding us. If you're anything like me you have a bit of whiplash from how quickly the last year went; when you thought of 2012 you were still dealing with 2011. Well that's okay, life often feels like we are living in fast forward. Living there constantly, however, is something else. So take a moment, even a deep breath, and calm your spirit; I want to ask a question. How will this year be different? How will this year be the best year of your life yet? What will be different?

I believe we are called to live intentional lives. Yes, we all struggle with this at some point, but let's not chalk it up to, "I'm only human." I truly believe that as the Body of Christ we are beginning to gain momentum in the Spirit, so let's keep in step with the Spirit of God! Seek to grow intentionally in your relationship with God, to grow intentionally as the people of God, and to intentionally discover something new this year. God is always on the move and I believe he continually is moving us to greater depths and greater heights. We have only to consistently seek his presence and allow the Holy Spirit to move us. This year is going to be AMAZING!!!!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Student Life

It's the start of a new year. Most of us are recovering from our family Christmas celebrations; a few of us are gearing up for one last gathering. We're making resolutions and looking to the future, and so is the Youth Ministry. The first thing in our near future is the Senior High Winter Retreat at Lake James Christian Assembly. If your student went to Lake James this summer, this will be a great chance for them to reconnect with camp friends; and if they haven't been to camp before, this is a chance for them to be gently introduced to camp life and see what it's like before they commit to a full week in the summer. But whether they've been before or not, the winter retreat at LJCA is a great place to help students connect with God and to keep them spiritually motivated and growing through this long winter season. This year, the youth ministry will be able to subsidize the bulk of the cost to ensure that as many of our students as possible will be able to come to this great event. The retreat takes place January 20-22, so we have to register by Sunday, January 15, at the latest. Check the flier on the bulletin board or come see me ASAP for more information! (And Junior High parents, start planning now, the winter retreat for grades 7 & 8 is coming up soon!)

Also this month, we'll be starting a new series on *The Basics*, looking through the Gospels to find the essentials of Christian life. This should be a question and discussion intensive time for students, so parents, please be ready to carry those discussions home. What we do here can only go so far, it's the modeling and teaching you do at home that shapes their Christian walk most. And for anyone who has ever been curious about the Youth Ministry or considered volunteering before, this is an ideal time to see how you would fit. Come see me if you'd like to hear more about what the youth ministry aims to do or maybe see Kevin Gillian if you want to hear a volunteer's perspective on what it's like to spend time helping to lead and teach our youth.

- Dennis

Cat's Meow

From the desk of the children's director

Today, January 1, is the day I celebrate the beginning of my 11th year in children's ministry along with the administrative assistant duties that began three years prior. If I could reiterate a sentence or two from last month, "Wow! How blessed I am to be a part of BCC!" Thank you to all those who have volunteered in children's ministry! As I flip through the directory, there is such a large percentage of people who have blessed the lives of our children by sharing God's love with them! Thank you!

As I look back, I fondly remember my mentor, Violette Patee. She was such an encouragement as I got my feet wet in full time ministry. As I took children out to lunch these past two weeks, I finally understood why she used the same JOY Memory Verses year after year. The children may memorize for 1 Sunday a verse, but if they continue to memorize "key verses" year after year, it will eventually become a part of the child. Back in September, I challenged the children to learn a verse a week; and for those who memorized at least 5 verses, we would have lunch/dinner together. Congratulations to Korbin, Jillian, Matthew, Gabby, Tricianna, Grace, Gabi, Jayna, and Lydia! Way to go!

So what does the future hold? Well for January and February, the Jr. Worship children will be discovering "Why We Do What We Do" from different folks at BCC. This Sunday begins with "Why Go to Church?"

On January 18th, we will have our 3rd Cooking Creations and Cool Crafts night. Children should bring old rolled up socks with them (preferably white!).

Fifth and sixth grade youth group students will meet on January 8, 15, & 29 at their regular times. On January 20th, we will be going to Pokagon State Park to experience the toboggan run. Cost is \$3.50 per person plus money for pizza afterwards. The entire family is invited to come on out for this evening. We will leave the church at 4:30 p.m., toboggan for an hour, and then to Pizza Hut in Angola. Please sign up in the foyer.

The Connection

Prayer Ministry

SCRIPTURE - "It is written," He said to them, "My House will be called a house of prayer." - Matthew 21:13

REFLECTION - Prayer is always welcome in the house of God. When prayer is a stranger there, it stops being God's house. - E.M. Bounds

PRAYER - Father God, make our church a true house of prayer . . . touch us with Your Spirit so we honor You above all else. Amen

ACTION - The church prayer ministry group meets monthly the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the ministry center.

Come once or come monthly. January's focus will be - "Family of Prayer".

FINANCIAL FREEDOM SEMINAR

January 28th, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

February 4th, 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of this seminar is to encourage and strengthen people in the handling of their finances. Each participant will be instructed in how to gain financial freedom in terms of goals, giving, budgeting, savings and their future. The structure of the seminar will be a mixture of teaching and discussion. Please sign up in the foyer.

The cost of the seminar is \$10 per person; \$15 per couple (non-refundable). You may pay in the secretary's office through January 22. The first 8 people/couples (per date) to pay in full will receive a free book.

*Registration fees will be applied to materials associated with seminar, including food.

*Please make checks payable to Butler Church of Christ.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Finance Mtg. <i>Loretta Kaiser</i> | 2 | 3 AA, 7 p.m. <i>Leah Kreischer</i> | 4 Kid Connection Preschool Begins | 5 <i>Brittany Camp</i> | 6 Reel Movies @ John's AA, 7 p.m. | 7 Prayer Ministry, 10-11:30 <i>Jadyn Jacobs</i> |
| 8 Youth Groups | 9 <i>Leona VanZile</i> | 10 AA, 7 p.m. <i>Kim Keller</i> | 11 Kid Connection | 12 | 13 AA, 7 p.m. | 14 <i>Jean Camp Robin Eldridge</i> |
| 15 Youth Groups | 16 <i>Holly Strong</i> | 17 AA, 7 p.m. | 18 Cooking Creations & Cool Crafts <i>Linda Davis</i> | 19 <i>Camden Miller</i> | 20 5th & 6th-Pokagon Sr. High Retreat AA, 7 p.m. | 21 Sr. High Retreat |
| 22 Jr./Sr. High Youth - Game Night Sr. High Retreat Guest Speaker <i>Cassie Dove Nikki Petry John Schaaf</i> | 23 | 24 AA, 7 p.m. <i>Misha Pugh</i> | 25 Kid Connection <i>Joe Cordova Esther Howley</i> | 26 | 27 AA, 7 p.m. | 28 <i>Janalee Ulm</i> |
| 29 Family Sunday Youth Groups <i>TJ Imhoff Alan Thorp</i> | 30 | 31 AA, 7 p.m. | January 2012 Birthdays are listed above in italics. | | | |

Wee Worship

1 Tyler & Kileigh Wolfe, Molly Eakright
8 & 15 Allison Rodkey
22 & 29 Kevin & Misti Gillian

Preschool Worship

Cathy Walker & TJ Imhoff
Linda Davis & Sarah Strong
Linda Anderson & Jon Imhoff

Junior Worship

Cathy Jarrett & Justin Eakright
Cathy Jarrett & Lynette Gerambio
Cathy Jarrett & Dan Pugh/Family Sunday

Nursery

1 Debi Pugh & Holly Strong
8 Esther & Justin Howley
15 Matt & Lacey Eakright
22 Kim & Noelle Keller
29 Joyce & Adam Strong

Communion Prep: Bonny Dyson

Greeters

Bernard & Janet Shafer (east doors)
Bob & Linda Davis (south doors)
Alan Thorpe (west doors)

Ladies Aide

Diane Eakright
Bonny Dyson
Ricky Houser