

# The Currents

**April  
2013**

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## Compassion and Mercy

*A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup>*

*Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. <sup>43</sup> Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: <sup>44</sup> "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>45</sup> Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere (Mark 1:40-45)*

What is the church typically known for? All too often the church is known for what it stands against instead of what it stands for. Ask the typical person outside the church and you hear things

## The Pastor's Pen



like judgmental, hypocrite, harsh, out of touch. Wouldn't it be great if instead we would hear things like "Oh they do so much good." "I hope they never go away." "The community would miss them an awful lot if they weren't here." "Aren't they so loving." But look at Jesus in this passage. Earlier in the chapter Mark tells us that the people were bringing to Jesus all the sick and demon possessed for healing. In fact, v.33 says that the whole town gathered at the door. Obviously Jesus was gaining a quite different reputation than the average church today.

What absolutely strikes me as we look at Jesus' healing of the leper is His heart towards him. We have to realize that a leper would not only be physically suffering. He would be ceremonially unclean, which means

*(Continued on page 3)*



On the evening of Friday, Feb. 15, or in the early morning hours of Saturday, Feb. 16, unknown assailants threw acid onto the veranda of the Gospel Life Church International, where believers had gathered for an all-night prayer vigil. The incident was reported to the police and local newspaper, but no arrests have been made.

The Gospel Life Church International is where Pastor Umar Mulinde, a former Muslim, was attacked on Christmas Eve 2011 after finishing a seven-day revival. Pastor Umar was leaving the church to attend a party with his



congregation and hundreds of new Christian converts when a man claiming to be a Christian approached him. The man then poured acid on his face while others poured acid on his back. The assailants ran away shouting, "Allahu akbar" (God is great).

The acid burned about 30 percent of his face and blinded him in one eye. Pastor Umar received medical treatment in Israel for more than a year for more than a year.

VOM Sources

### Please Pray!

- Please pray for the safety of believers at the Gospel Life Church International.
- Please remember Pastor Umar Mulinde and his family, as they continue to receive death threats.
- Pray for the salvation of those behind these attacks on Christians.

*"You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; you shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues." Ps. 31:20*

Although Uganda is not on VOM's list of Restricted Nations or Hostile Areas, this incident is a case of persecution against Christians. VOM will continue to monitor the situation in Uganda. §

## Scheduled to Serve

	APRIL 7	APRIL 14	APRIL 21	APRIL 28
<u>Nursery</u> 8:30a 10:00a 11:00a	S. Williams D. Bartholomew Lappe/Ch. Ward	M. Johnson T. Belus J. Webster & A. Ward	S. Williams J. Hilgers Jamie & C. Williams	H. Coffing L. Shuler S. Budd/ M. Wohlers
<u>Children's Church</u>	Hannah, Libby, and Leah Coffing	S. Williams A. Belus H. Williams	Marsha Budd Jordan Hilgers Tyler Hilgers	S. Williams J. Bartholomew N. Bartholomew
<u>Manor on the Green</u>	Sam Coffing Dick Snyder		Larry Budd Charles Gibson	
<u>Sunday AM</u> <u>Hostess</u>	Mary Athelstone	Jean Kussrow	J. Seibert	K. Merkel

### The Pastor's Pen (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

he would be an outcast. He would not be able to worship in community nor enjoy fellowship. The text tells us that Jesus was filled with compassion or moved with pity. The word literally means the inward parts or bowels. In other words it is to feel affection and pity from the depths of your being.

If we are going to be a church that offers hope for the hurting it must begin with our hearts. We can never feel we are too good for anyone. Jesus was filled with compassion for this man.

He then reached out and touched him. Think about this. This man, for who knows how long, had been an outcast, devoid of all human contact. And Jesus touches him. Think of how this man must have felt. Not only physically from being healed, but spiritually and emotionally as well. Jesus' healing is always holistic. He cares about us spiritually, physically and emotionally.

This is not easy as it costs a great deal to be involved with others. But think of Jesus' compassion for us. While we were enemies of His, He gave His life

for us. He was moved to pity for us. We can only love and be moved to pity for others to the degree we are seeing and appropriating His deep love for us.

Let's be a church deeply loved by our Lord and, in turn, deeply loving and offering hope to the hurting.



We are currently working on a beautiful Christmas quilt for next year's Fall Festival as well as others for our friends at Spruce Creek. We invite anyone to join us. We work together as a class and would be happy to share our love of quilting with you. Call Becky Hawkins, Betty Francis, Donna Rozier or Bonnie Yang for more information.



Quilt made by Bonnie Yang  
for June Seibert



Quilt given to Leah Coffing made by Donna Rozier



Drue Becker with quilt made  
by Becky Hawkins

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## New Members

Spruce Creek Presbyterian would like to welcome its newest members to our church family, Tim & Jennifer Webster. Tim and Jen have attended Spruce Creek for some time now, on February 26th they came before the elders for review and approval. Then, they came before the congregation to profess publicly their faith in Jesus Christ and were baptized into the covenant community. May God continue to richly bless them and their family.



# April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p NSB	3 10a Women's Study  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p Central 7p P.O. West	4 7p Choir 7p Children's Ministry Team Meeting  <u>Community Groups</u> 6:30p Daytona	5 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study	6  <i>Grounds Crew #2</i>
7 <b>HUM Collection</b> <b>Communion</b> 2:00p Manor on the Green 4:30 Youth Group  <u>Community Group</u> 6p P.O. East	8 7p Yr 3 T2 Women's Discipleship (FH)	9 10a Prayer Quilts (FH) 6:30p Session  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p NSB	10 10a Women's Study  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p Central 7p P.O. West	11 7p Choir  <u>Community Groups</u> 6:30p Daytona	12 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study	13  <i>Grounds Crew #3</i>
14 4:30 Youth Group  <u>Community Group</u> 6p P.O. East	15	16  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p NSB	17 10a Women's Study  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p Central 7p P.O. West	18 7p Choir  <u>Community Groups</u> 6:30p Daytona	19 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study  Salt Springs Camp-out	20  <i>Grounds Crew #4</i>  Salt Springs Camp-out
21 2:00p Manor on the Green 4:30 Youth Group 6:30p HS Girls Disciple- ship  <u>Community Group</u> 6p P.O. East  Salt Springs Campout	22	23 5:30p Diaconate 6:30p Joint Ses- sion /Diaconate 7:00p Talent Show Practice  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p NSB	24 10a Women's Study  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p Central 7p P.O. West	25 7:00p Choir 7p Yr 3 T2 Women's Discipleship (FH)  <u>Community Groups</u> 6:30p Daytona	26 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study  7:00p Talent Show Practice	27  <i>Grounds Crew #1</i> 10a VBS Orientation  7:00p 'Shine Like Stars Talent Show' & Cake Auction FundRaiser
28 12:30 Children's Ministry Opportunity Volunteer Mtg 4:30 Youth Group  <u>Community Group</u> 6p P.O. East	29	30  <u>Community Groups</u> 7p NSB				

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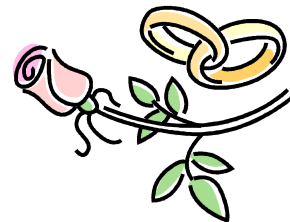
## April Birthdays

04/02 Jorge Nunez  
04/02 Cherriel Ward \*  
04/04 Bill Spangler \*  
04/12 Jamie Williams \*  
04/16 Carl Ward Jr \* \*

04/17 Michael Tehan  
04/18 Patricia Norton \*  
04/26 Shane Bartholomew \*  
04/28 Sarah Waigand \*  
04/30 Caleb Bartholomew

## April Anniversaries

04/01 Dumke, Lydia  
04/03 Williams, Eric & Sherry  
04/29 Coffing, Sam & Janel



### Wildfire Student Ministry

Shane Bartholomew, Elder

### Wildfire Purpose Statement:

"To spread a burning zeal for the Gospel to our community and where-ever else the Lord may lead us"



I am praying today that our youth will see that one of the great strongholds of the flesh is discontentment. One of the ways to weaken and kill the sin of discontentment that tempts us every day, is to see our disappointment, adversity, and any affliction in the light of God's astonishing mercy. Consider these words from Martin Luther and Jeremiah Burroughs, that can help us learn the secret of being content.

"The sea of God's mercy should swallow up all of our particular afflictions." Luther.

"Name any affliction that is upon you; there is a sea of mercy to swallow it up. If you pour a pail full of water on the floor of your house, it makes a great show, but if you throw it into the sea, there is no sign of it. So, afflictions considered in themselves, we think they are very great, but let them be considered with the sea of God's mercies we enjoy, and then they are not so much, they are nothing in comparison." Jeremiah Burroughs.

Pray with me that God will continue to tear down and destroy the stronghold of discontentment in our lives, as we learn to focus on the sea of God's mercies and not the "light and momentary afflictions" that often discourage us. If we are in Christ then we are treasured, valued, loved and accepted by the God of the universe and this status is an unchanging one. Learn with me how to drink in this amazing truth every day and to cling desperately to His mercies that are new every morning. This is where peace, contentment and true joy is found.

Last Month our High School Student attended the Southland Student Conferences "High School Winter Beach Retreat". I asked Tyler Hilgers to share his experience from the retreat:

"At this past church retreat I saw growth in those around me and in myself spiritually. As far as a sense of Immanuel, God being with us, I think that was certainly felt at this retreat. In every game we played, lesson we shared, or topic we discussed God had been there with us listening and giving us new words to speak through him. My favorite part of the retreat was honestly the fellowship. Making a few new friends and seeing others whom I had met at camp or another event I was glad because of all of the memories we all shared. In my opinion retreats and camps certainly make up some of the best times of the year for us." Tyler Hilgers

Thanks for supporting Wildfire Youth - In His Love,  
Shane

## Corner of Love - Nicaraguan Mission trip

In a few months, about 15 of the church family will be heading south into some of the rural villages in Northern Nicaragua. At this time participants from the Campbell, Cole, Coffing, Shuler, Ward, and Williams family are looking forward to this opportunity (As of this writing, there are a few others who are still considering.) Each person will live out of their carry-on bags for a week, bringing up to 100 pounds of donations in suitcases. During our trip, we'll provide medical care, clothes, shoes, and prayer to about 1500 Nicaraguans, most of whom do not have potable water or electricity. Corner of Love provides this care as part of the local Protestant church. This enables us to not only spread the gospel, but encourage a community of believers in

Nicaragua.

In order to go to Nicaragua, we need to have a few fundraisers to gather the \$1350 per person price tag. The first fundraiser is a **pancake breakfast, held in conjunction with the annual Easter Extravaganza.** This, will have occurred by the time this issue of the Currents went to print. Pictures will be available in a future edition. The next fundraiser is the **talent show with cake auction on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** at the church. Jamie Williams will be heading this event. If you would like to display the artistic talents with which God has blessed you and/or bake and decorate a confectionery masterpiece, please not only attend, but also volunteer. The third fundraiser is the **car wash on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.** Look for tickets to be sold

1-2 weeks prior to this date. The location is still to be determined, but will be in Port Orange.

Christ Community Church, with whom we are sending a team, is cooking a **Nicaraguan take-out dinner. Pre-sales will be ahead of the May 10<sup>th</sup> delivery.** Additional information will be provided in the church bulletins. After second service on **May 19<sup>th</sup>, we hope you'll join us for a Nicaraguan meal with staples like rice and beans, chicken and/or pork, salad.** This year's VBS will be collecting supplies to send to Nicaragua. See Sherry Williams for additional information if you would like to volunteer. **A few days prior to leaving on June 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll be having a "packing party".** This is an evening to stuff all of the donations into suitcases or duffels.



## A Call for Help from The Children's Ministry



**“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him.” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

COME!!! Let's walk together in service to our king and one another. God has chosen to work in and through His people to build His kingdom. What an honor!! The children's ministry is dear to the Lord's heart, it is dear to mine, is it dear to yours? Training the next generation to be our future church leaders and servants of Christ is of extreme importance, which all church members agree to participate in when our children are baptized. It is a promise that I made, and I am privileged to fulfill. God has shown me that teaching children is what He has gifted me in, and it is the place of service where I am most satisfied. Have you found your niche in ministry? If you are not sure what your gift is, then try out different areas. It is fine to try something out without knowing how it will go. Pray, have faith that God will fulfill His promise to go with you. The Lord will lead you to the perfect place. As a leader, I am committed to walk with you, equip you, and then set you free to experience the joy of doing what you were created to do.

On Sunday, April 28, at 12:30pm, I will be having a volunteer meeting where you can be informed about all the ministry opportunities available. Come discover a place in children's ministry where you can plug in. Lunch will be provided! I will overview each area, and offer training opportunities in those areas. There are spots available in every area of Children's ministry including: nursery, Sunday school, children's church, outreach events, prayer pals, and our newest ministry, the Palmetto House.

It is my hope that I will have more volunteers than I need. Please sign up in the narthex, to attend this informational meeting. You don't want to miss out on the joy of being used by God! “May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.” Psalm 90:17

In His Service,

Sherry Williams



# the Parent LINK

Children's Ministry Edition



April 2013

## Spruce Creek Presbyterian Children's Corner



### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK GOD:

1. To grow your empathy for those different from you.
2. For opportunities to model a caring attitude for your kids.
3. For help in showing your kids that we were all made differently by God for very good reason—and he loves us for our uniqueness.

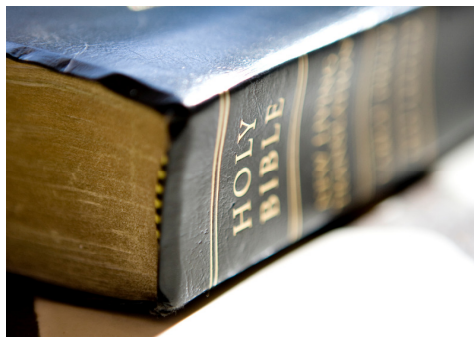
### *Beyond the Comfort Zone*

When we're completely honest, most of us know people in our lives we've had trouble loving. We know our greatest instructions from God are to love him and to love our neighbor, but our differences and various circumstances can make getting along difficult—to say the least. It's human to fall short of this greatest commandment, but not reason to stop trying to follow God's commands. Think about the situations where you feel challenged to show understanding and kindness to others. Strive to honor God and grow spiritually by intentionally loving those you struggle to love. When your kids see you make this effort, they'll do the same.

It's easy in adulthood to get cozy in circles of friends and not stretch out our arms in grace to others. It can be downright scary to go outside our comfort to love others we might not necessarily connect with easily. Give it a try and take your kids along for the adventure. The relationships you'll build along the way will enrich and bless your life.

### *Joy in Unlikely Friendships*

For a visual reminder for you and your kids as you grow grace and understanding of those who are different from you, check out the *Unlikely Friendships* calendar available at [workman.com](http://workman.com). Every month there's a new picture of unlikely animal friends that your kids will enjoy learning about. It's hard not to be encouraged by a polar bear befriending and cuddling a sled dog. If they can do it, so can we!



“This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.”  
—John 15:12

## Teachable Moment

### April Showers Bring May Flowers

If you plant a flower garden, or even a few pots of flowers around your yard, have your kids join you in the planting process. As you work, discuss these questions with your kids:

**ASK:** “What are the differences you can see in the pictures on the packets of the flowers we’re planting? How are the petals, stems, textures, and colors different from flower to flower? How does each type of flower make our garden more beautiful?”

**SAY:** “God knew our world needed some unique beauty, too, so that’s why he created us all so differently. We come in different shapes, sizes, colors, personalities, and with different talents. We all have our place and purpose in the world and make it more beautiful.”

**ASK:** “What are differences you notice in people that make the world like a big, colorful garden? What are some things we can do to show others that we know they’re important because God meant to create them just the way they are?”

## Three Powerful Ways to Show Love for Friends With Special Needs

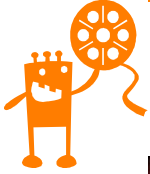
We are all unique creations of God, and our differences make the world complete. However, teaching children about disabilities and differences takes some time and effort. Through conversations and experiences, we can help our children understand and appreciate others’ differences—and, make some wonderful friends in the process! Here’s how:

**Give Kids Facts:** When children notice differences, they’ll likely have questions. Use these teachable moments to increase their understanding. For example, if a child in your church uses a special communication device, you can say, “When you need water, you use your words; when Alex needs a drink, he uses his talker to tell his mom.” And, don’t forget the most important fact: EVERY child was created—and is loved—by God!

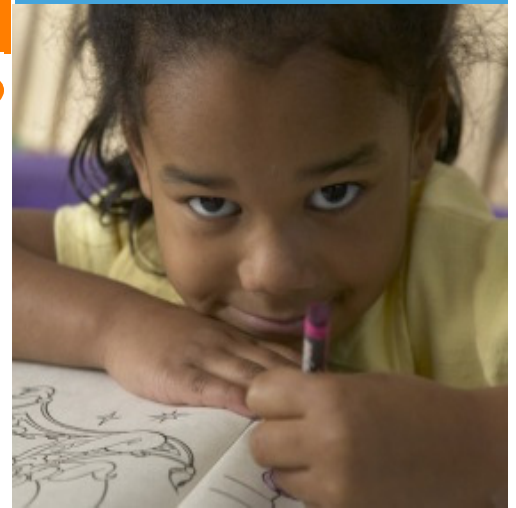
**Model Kindness and Hospitality:** When your children observe you interacting comfortably with kids with disabilities, they’ll follow your lead. In addition to greeting and chatting with kids, consider hosting a play date or inviting a family to join you at the park. This lets your children practice hospitality and learn empathy while finding common interests and fostering new friendships.

**Affirm Kids’ Efforts and Emphasize Grace:** Sometimes, children with disabilities struggle with making friends; communication challenges, short attention spans, and often under-developed social skills can hamper successful interactions. Your child may feel rejected or frustrated when attempting to befriend a child who has a disability. When this happens, encourage your child, saying, “I really like how you greeted Bethany. That was so kind. It seems like she was having a rough day. That happens to everyone sometimes. Even so, I’m really glad you tried to make her feel welcome.” These conversations reinforce your child’s positive efforts, and lay the foundation for grace-filled friendships.

by Katie Wetherbee, director of ministry education for Key Ministry ([keyministry.org](http://keyministry.org))



## MEDIA MADNESS



### MUSIC

**Artist:** Audio Adrenaline

**Album:** Kings & Queens (Released 3/12/13)

**Artist Info:** After six years in retirement, Audio Adrenaline is back with fresh faces and talent plucked from a handful of Christian rock's most popular bands.

**Summary:** High-energy music with a pop-rock sound and positive, Christian message.

**Our Take:** With all the new band members, it's safe to expect that long-time Audio Adrenaline fans will notice a difference in the sound. The powerful, thoughtful lyrics and strong musical arrangements, however, remain. *Kings & Queens* is an album the whole family can enjoy.

### BOOKS

**Title:** I Love You to God and Back (Released 2/5/2013)

**Author:** Amanda Lamb

**Publisher:** Thomas Nelson

**Summary:** A bedtime story your kids will cherish because it helps them understand ways they can pray to God.

**Our Take:** Lamb is an author and mother, bringing the experiences with her children into *I Love You to God and Back*. It's an endearing, relatable story that can trigger a nightly habit of praying with your children. This is a good resource for your kids' spiritual growth and yours, too.

### CULTURE & TRENDS

#### April is Autism Awareness Month

For insight into ways to lovingly interact with kids with special needs and their families, check out [joniandfriends.org](http://joniandfriends.org) and [keyministry.org](http://keyministry.org). Both are organizations dedicated to equipping ministries for special needs kids and families—and both offer a wealth of disability-related information.

- A great way for you and your kids to connect with families with special needs is to volunteer at a local "respite night." Often hosted by churches, these evenings let parents run errands, go have a quiet dinner or date night, or even simply relax for a few hours at home while their kids with special needs are safe and cared for by trained volunteers. If your church doesn't host a respite night, look into being one of the pioneers to get it started!

### GAMES, SITES & APPS

Title	Content	Rating & Platform
<b>The Berenstain Bears Games</b>	Your kids can build and read their own Berenstain Bears story at <a href="http://pbskids.org/berenstainbears">pbskids.org/berenstainbears</a> . Kids will have fun as they learn word recognition.	Free! Best for ages 6 to 8. Always monitor your kids' time online.
<b>Familyminute.com</b>	A helpful website with many resources for dealing with family topics such as sibling rivalry, discipline techniques, achieving life/work balance, and more.	Free! For parents, grandparents, guardians, and anyone interested in good parenting tips.
<b>Toddler Counting</b>	This app provides objects such as food, animals, and other familiar objects toddlers can touch and learn to count.	For iPhone or iPad; available through iTunes for \$0.99.

This page is designed to help educate parents and isn't meant to endorse any movie, music, or product. Our prayer is that you'll make informed decisions about what your children watch, listen to, and play.





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Pianist	Betty Jo Seagraves
Youth Ministry	Shane Bartholomew
	Gabe Williams
Women's Ministries	June Seibert

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