

The Currents

**March
2013**

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Christian, Do You Know Who You

The first thing I want to do is to say a word of thanks and appreciation to a couple of people. First, to Donna Chestnut. Donna has faithfully put together and edited The Currents for a number of years, and I am personally very appreciative for her years of service both to the Lord and to us here at Spruce Creek. The Currents serves a wonderful purpose both to edify and to inform and communicate with the congregation concerning the various ministries of the church. Thank you Donna. And next to say a word of thanks and appreciation to Tim and Jennifer Webster for their taking up the mantle of overseeing the production of The Currents. I appreciate Tim and Jen's willingness to utilize their gifts in service to the Lord for the good of the church. Please be in prayer for Tim and Jen as they serve in this ministry.

Recently at one of our Community Group meetings the topic came up of our identity in Christ. We were speaking of who we are, as believers, in Christ. It was asked whether I had ever in my ministry communicated a comprehensive list of all the Scriptures speak of concerning the believer's identity in Christ. I am not sure whether I have ever made such a list, but I began to think about this and it occurred to me that the closest

The Pastor's Pen



thing to such a list exists in the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. In Ephesians 1:3-14 Paul begins to lay out the scope of the Christian's identity in Christ. The text reads:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined

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PHILIPPINES: Christians Fear Increased Persecution

In an area of the southern Philippines, Christians are suffering severe persecution at the hands of rebels who are determined to introduce Islamic law there. Many Christians living on the island of Mindanao have been forced off their land, maliciously attacked and even killed. And with the signing of a new agreement, they fear it will only get worse. Even though political negotiations are presently taking place between the Filipino government and Muslim leaders about the creation of a new semi-autonomous region, the rebels are operating as if Islamic law is already in effect. In Oct. 2012, the Filipino Government and rebels signed a preliminary peace accord agreeing to the formation of a new semi-autonomous region in Bangsamoro in 2016. Christians fear this will only cause persecution to intensify and that they will be driven out of the area altogether: attacks on their property are common and several churches have been stoned or burned down.



Source: Release International

Please Pray!

- Pray God's peace and protection over Christians in the area of Mindanao.
- Pray that political negotiations will safeguard their rights as a community.
- Pray particularly for villages and individuals who have been affected by violent attacks.
- Pray that God will heal their bodies, renew their minds and build their faith so they can stand firm amid persecution.

"Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord - that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful." James 5:11

VOM assists Christians in the Philippines through its Families of Martyrs fund and VOMedical, as well as other means of assistance that includes motorcycles for pastors.

Scheduled to Serve

	MARCH 3	MARCH 10	MARCH 17	MARCH 24	MARCH 31
<u>Nursery</u>					
8:30a	S. Williams	M. Johnson	S. Williams	H. Coffing	S. Williams
10:00a		T. Belus	J. Hilgers	L. Shuler	D. Baum
11:00a		J. Webster & A. Ward	Jamie & C. Williams	S. Budd M. Wohlers	D. Cole
<u>Children's Church</u>					
	M. Budd H. Coffing	S. Williams A. Belus H. Williams	Marsha Budd Jordan Hilgers Tyler Hilgers	S. Williams J. Bartholomew N. Bartholomew	T. Headley B. Schuler N. Shuler
<u>Manor on the Green</u>	Larry Budd Charles Gibson		Sam Coffing Dick Snyder		
<u>Sunday AM Hostess</u>	Lois Kelley	Carol McClure	Janel Coffing	Lani Tovey	

The Pastor's Pen (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

...tined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:3-14).

Wow! Utterly amazing! This is a tremendous list of the realities of who we are in Christ. And we will spend the next several issues of The Currents detailing these gospel realities.

For the moment let me just point out a couple of things from verse 3. Verse 3 says, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.* First, notice that this says "every spiritual blessing." There is nothing we lack concerning our identity in Christ. Paul says we have every spiritual blessing in Christ. Oh how we would begin to be changed if we appropriated daily what Christ has purchased and accomplished for us.

And second, notice that all of these realities are found "in Christ." While Jesus told his disciples in the Gospel of John that "Apart from Me

you can do nothing (John 15:5), we do have every spiritual blessing "in Him." And every does mean every. We lack nothing in Christ. Christian, do you know who you are "in Christ?"

I once read a definition of living the Christian life as "Be by faith what you already are in Christ." I think this is a good definition for our sanctification (our Christian life) and how it is rooted in our identity in Christ. Let's begin to explore and appropriate the glorious riches of who we are in Christ.



From the Women's Ministry

Submitted by Bev Firouzabadi

Fellowship, fun, and great food were enjoyed by all of the women, teens, and children that attended the Valentine's Luncheon held on February 16, 2013 at 11:30 AM in the fellowship hall. The gathering was a fellowship for all that attended through the sharing of prayers, ministering to each other, catching up with old friends, getting to meet new friends, and enjoying a meal together.

We also had great laughs together with a skit directed and produced by Jae Hilgers and her troop of great actresses (Mary Athelstone, Joelle Bartholomew Becky Hawkins, and Jamie Williams). They were awesome and everybody enjoyed their production.

We were able to collect a good amount of nonperishable foods for HUM, as an Outreach Ministry during this event.

We thank all of the Kitchen Angels who decorated, prepared, and served the food for the luncheon. This successful fellowship event would not have been so well executed if they had not been involved.

Save the date for our spring fellowship event, The Mother's Day Luncheon, planned for May 11, 2013 at 12 noon, at a place to be announced as we will be going out for lunch as a group. We are making arrangements and will post a sign-up sheet in the Narthex as soon as all of the details have been worked out. You won't want to miss this event!

We look forward to fellowship with the entire Women's Ministry!



March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study	2 Nicaragua Mission Trip/Team Meeting
3 HUM Collection Communion 2:00p Manor on the Green 4:30 Youth Group 6:30p Puppet Practice Community Group 6p P.O. East	4	5 Community Groups 7p NSB	6 10a Women's Study Community Groups 7p Central 7p P.O. West	7 7p Choir 7p Children's Ministry Team Meeting Community Groups 6:30p Daytona	8 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study	9 <i>Grounds Crew #4</i>
10 4:30 Youth Group 6:30p Puppet Practice Community Group 6p P.O. East	11 7p Yr 3 T2 Women's Discipleship (FH)	12 10a Prayer Quilts (FH) 6:30p Session Community Groups 7p NSB	13 10a Women's Study Community Groups 7p Central 7p P.O. West	14 7p Choir Community Groups 6:30p Daytona	15 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study	16
17 2:00p Manor on the Green 4:30 Youth Group 6:30p HS Girls Discipleship Community Group 6p P.O. East	18	19 5:30p Diaconate Community Groups 7p NSB	20 10a Women's Study Community Groups 7p Central 7p P.O. West	21 7:00p Choir Community Groups 6:30p Daytona	22 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study 6-7p Easter Program Rehearsal	23 <i>Grounds Crew #1</i>
24 4:30 Youth Group Community Group 6p P.O. East	25	26 6:30p Session Community Groups 7p NSB	27 10a Women's Study Community Groups 7p Central 7p P.O. West	28 1:00p Bill Campbell Memorial Service 7p Yr 3 T2 Women's Discipleship (FH) 7:00p Choir Community Groups 6:30p Daytona	29 6:30a Men's Study 11:00a Men's Study 6-7p Easter Program Rehearsal	30 9:30a Nicaragua Pancake Breakfast 10:30a Easter Extravaganza
31 9:45a Easter Program & Brunch 4:30p Youth Group Community Group 6p P.O. East						

March Birthdays

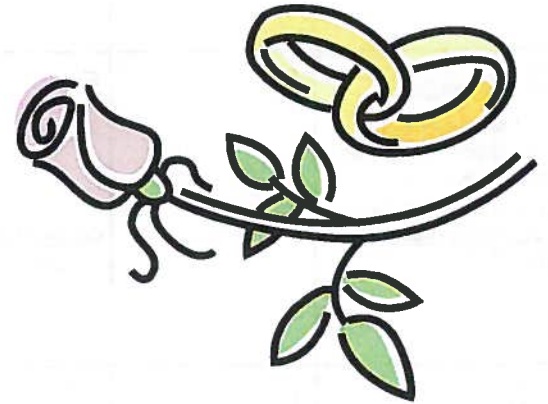
03/03 Larry Budd
03/04 Dan Beilstein
03/04 Jeff Birch
03/05 Stephanie Lloyd
03/10 Sherry Williams
03/11 Billy Fadden
03/14 Chuck Tovey
03/15 Amber Webster
03/18 Larissa Shuler
03/19 Fred Waigand
03/21 Megan Wohlers
03/23 Rus Hamilton
03/24 Diane Baum
03/24 Mitch Cole
03/25 Betty Murray



03/26 Gretchen Deckman
03/27 Jim Sadler
03/27 Jan Spurgeon
03/29 Taylor McClure
03/29 Anthony Nanocchio
03/30 Marsha Budd
03/31 Barbara Adams

March Anniversaries

03/07 Francis, Dennis & Betty
03/24 Deckman, Charles & Gretchen
03/31 Griffin, Fred & Judy



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"



Hello Parents, Leaders, Students & Church Family,

February 8th-10th our Wildfire Youth Middle School Students got to experience Southland Student Conferences' Mid-Winter Retreat at Camp Southwind in Ocklawaha, FL!!! It was an AWESOME weekend filled with excellent teaching, engaging worship, exciting activities, including: Canoes & Kayaks, the Giant Swing, Pool & Waterslide, Beach Volleyball, Basketball, Disc Golf, the Amazing Race, Other Games, and more! Our 4 Middle School students were fortunate enough to be accompanied by Mr. Al Campbell this week. Danny Ray handled the teaching sessions throughout the weekend and Nate Young Band handled the Praise and Worship time.

Here are some responses from a few of our student who attended the retreat:

"The Southland Camp was very beneficial to my relationship with God, as well as the others at the camp. It taught me how to better understand His grace and mercy, and further comprehend the love He has for me." - Bradley Shuler

"The Southland Camp was a great experience to get closer to our youth members and God. The lessons we learned helped us get closer to God and get more spiritual towards Christ." - Noah Bartholomew

"This year I got to experience Southland's Mid-Winter Retreat, it was so fun, I got to hang with my friends and grow closer with God. I can't wait till next year!" - Jax Bartholomew

Next Month's issue will include an overview on our High School student's time at Southland's High School Retreat. §



Super Bowl Sunday



On Sunday, February 3rd, Spruce Creek Presbyterian Church hosted the Annual Super Bowl Sunday Flag Football Game and Party. Over 70 people attend the flag football games during the afternoon with 55 people actually playing. Everyone attending had an incredible day in the warm sun. The actual Super Bowl party had 40 attendees. Lots of good food, fellowship, and glorifying God.





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Youth Ministry	Shane Bartholomew
	Gabe Williams
Women's Ministries	June Seibert

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