

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Choir Practice

Choir Practice tonight at 5:00 p.m. Our cantata, *More than a Carpenter*, will be presented the evening of **March 24** at 6:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Youth House.

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, the menu is **Corned Beef and Cabbage**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal.

Bus to Pig Pickin'

If you'd like to ride the bus to the Pig Pickin' in Townsend on **March 16**, sign the hall list and be at the church by 12:15 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

The week of March 17, they will begin a new study of Micah. Please talk to Emily Herb (Tuesday night) or Jessica Dimmitt (Thursday night) if you want to join this class.

Special Called Meeting & Evening Worship

There is a Special Called Meeting of the membership on Sunday, **March 17**, at 5:40 p.m. for the purpose of voting for Glen Martin as elder and Mike Edwards as a new member. Evening Worship will follow at 6:00 p.m.

Easter Family Event

This fun event on March 23 is geared for families with kids from toddler age through the sixth grade! Kids will collect colored plastic eggs and trade them for candy and prizes. Please register for this free event online! https://subspla.sh/4c3gnnz/ or use the QR code on the right.

Easter Morning

March 31

Breakfast \$\display 8:45 a.m.

Sign up!

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Includes

Communion

No evening service

Senior Saints' Low Country Boil

Senior Saints are invited to the Low Country Boil at Ron and Mary Ann Fowler's home on Friday, **March 22**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sign up in the hall!

Continued on p. 4

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 19:14 Pew Bible p. 456

Hymn #143, bulletin p. 6

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Prayer of General Confession

Tom Keller Numbers 14:19-21 Pew Bible p. 122

Hymn #129, bulletin p. 7

"At the Cross"

Scripture Reading Psalm 116-117 Steve Posner Pew Bible pp. 510-511

Hymn, bulletin p. 8

"We Will Feast"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Easy to Say, But ...
Matthew #33
Matthew 6:9-15, Pew Bible p. 811

Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"Now Unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible

A.M. Notes

Easy to Say, But ... Matthew #33 Matthew 6:9-15

Forgive means literally to send away.

1 John 1:9

To not do so (forgive) is a rebellious, blatant, open act of disobedience representing a willful choice.

Notice that Jesus does not say that it is sufficient to put up with each other or to refuse retaliation, but we must truly forgive, sending away the debt they owe us.

Colossians 3:12-13

To continually forgive "just as the Lord forgave you" means just as freely, generously, wholeheartedly, spontaneously, and eagerly!

"Forgiveness is not a case of 'holy amnesia' that wipes out the past. Instead, it is the experience of healing that drains the poison from the wound."

Failure to forgive brings unpleasant results. <u>First</u>, failure to forgive will imprison believers in their past.

Second, unforgiveness produces bitterness.

Third, unforgiveness gives Satan an open door.

Fourth, unforgiveness hinders fellowship with God.

Continued from p. I

Good Friday Service

We will hold a simple Good Friday service on Friday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. Join us!

Marriage Retreat

Consider attending a Marriage Retreat, *Building Great Commandment Marriages*, scheduled for **April 26 and 27**. The speaker is Billy Muench (please see bio on page 5). Tickets are \$50 per couple for members and \$100 per couple for non-members. All tickets include three meals, a book, and the retreat. Tom Keller can answer any questions you may have. Online registration is open! https://subspla.sh/vszf795/, or use the QR code to the right. Child care for church members to attend is being arranged.

Featured Content from Right Now Media

The Case for Christ Revised Edition is our featured series this week.

From the description: Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God?



new way - and even, like Strobel, find their life
transformed. Pastors, small
group leaders, and individuals
will find compelling answers
for their questions about Jesus
in The Case for Christ.

Skeptics dismiss the Jesus of the Gospels by claiming there is no evidence in the case for Christ. Lee Strobel disagrees. The former legal journalist and one-time atheist knows to ask tough questions. His own search for truth about Jesus led him to faith in Christ.

Now Strobel invites you and your group to investigate the truth about Jesus Christ leading to the facts that guided Strobel from atheism to faith in Christ.

In this revised six-session study, participants will journey along with Strobel on a quest for the truth about Jesus. Rejecting easy answers, you will sift through fascinating historical evidence as you weigh compelling expert testimony. In the end, groups may very well see Jesus in a

Sessions include:

- 1. The Investigation of a Lifetime
- 2. Eyewitness Evidence
- 3. Evidence Outside the Bible
- 4. Analyzing Jesus
- 5. Evidence for the Resurrection
- 6. Reaching Your Verdict

Log in, find our church page by clicking on Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church on the top right menu area, and scroll to the "Theology" channel, where you will find the series.



I just received the list from my church here of those who have supported me as I prepare to go overseas; THANK YOU so so very much!! I appreciate it so much and I am incredibly grateful and thankful that you are both financially and prayerfully supporting me! I am incredibly excited to see what the Lord will do on this trip and what He already is doing through the believers there in the

country. I am not 100% sure what communication will look like while I am there. Because of safety concerns, I may only be able to send out an email about the trip once I return to the United States, but I will write of what the Lord's done! Thank you again!

Josiah Fields

About Bill Muench...

Bill Muench is the Lead Pastor of Redemption City Church in Round Rock, Texas. Bill began his journey with Christ in 1994. He is passionate about loving God and deeply committed to loving people right where they and walking them into the freedom of the gospel. Bill holds a Business Administration Degree from St. Edwards University and a Masters of Divinity Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. From successful CEOs, to couples struggling to survive in their marriage, Bill has spent the last 28 years in ministry investing his life and lessons learned into the personal and professional lives of those he serves. He and his wife help couples, pastors, and ministry leaders focus on deepening, strengthening and developing a culture of intimacy in the relationships that matter most in life. Bill and Debbie also lead multiple community-facing ministries and conferences around the country. Bill and his wife Debbie, have been married 29 years and live in Round Rock. They have 3 sons and 2 daughters-in law.



Important Upcoming Dates

March:

16	Pig Pickin' at Low Country Soil Farm in Townsend		1:00 p.m.
	(Sign up in the hall if you'd like to ride the bus at 12:15!)		
17	Launch week for Women's Bible Studies - N	1icah	
22	Spring Senior Saints' Low Country Boil	6:00 p.m.	- 8:00 p.m.
23	Easter Family Picnic	11:30 a.m.	- 1:30 p.m.
24	Easter Cantata		6:00 p.m.
29	Good Friday Service		7:00 p.m.
31	Easter Breakfast		8:45 a.m.
31	Easter Worship with Communion		10:00 a.m.

April:

3	Note: No Adventure Club	
14	Quarterly Congregational Meeting	TBA
21	After Church Lunch	12:00 p.m.
26	Marriage Retreat Day I	6:00 p.m 9:30 p.m.
27	Marriage Retreat Day 2	8:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.

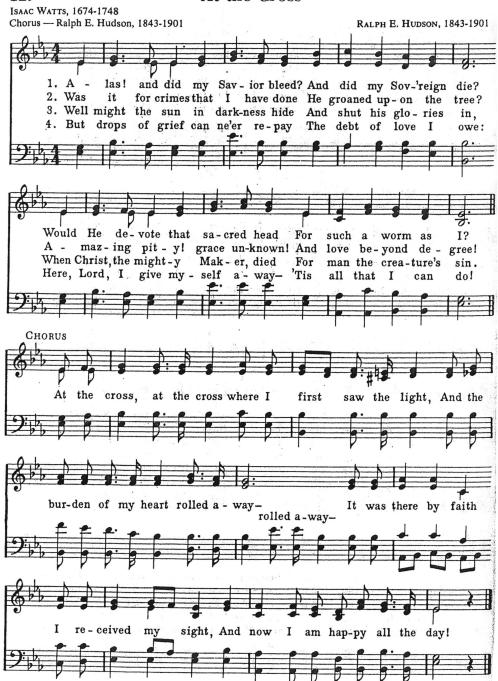
Trip to ICR Discovery Center, Texas	May 27-31
D3 Teen Camp:	June 15-21
VBS:	June 24-28
Older Children's Camp:	July 25-27



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At the Cross

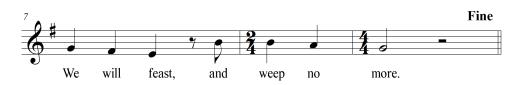


We Will Feast

by Sandra McCracken and Josh Moore

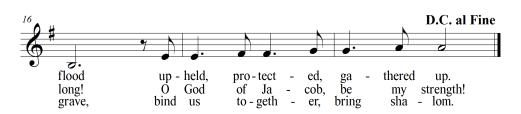












Now Unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible

Lorraine Sonnenberg



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Articles

9 Reasons You May Be in a Spiritual Drought—and How to Find Refreshment

By Derek J. Brown

If you have been a Christian for any amount of time, you know that spiritual passion, sight, and affections ebb and flow. At times our sense of spiritual realities can be strong and vibrant. Other times our hearts feel like lead weights, and we find ourselves longing for God to visit us once again and bring refreshment (Ps. 85:4-7). These seasons are usually referred to as times of "spiritual drought" or "spiritual dryness" and find intimate expression in many of the Psalms.

David often cried out to God in times where his soul seemed like dust, and he yearned to be refreshed by the presence of the Lord (Ps. 13; Ps. 63). Other psalmists expressed their longing to have their parched souls be replenished by the Lord (Psalm 42). Those who have tasted of the goodness of Christ know what it means to be without that taste; it leaves us pleading, "light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death" (Ps. 13:3).

Spiritual drought, though a persistent and unwelcome visitor, is not something with which we must constantly live. There are Biblical means by which we can, by grace, put ourselves in the way of refreshment; we can be restored to once again feel the joy of our salvation. But this can only happen if we are able to discern why we might be experiencing spiritual dryness, so we can take the appropriate action. I would like to suggest a few reasons we may be experiencing a season of spiritual drought and provide the correlating remedies.

I. Unchecked Lust

Peter's warning could not be more explicit: "Abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul" (I Pet. 2:11). Impure thoughts and freshly cultivated fantasies will only dull our sense of spiritual things; this is what Peter means when he tells us that lust "wages war against the soul." Harboring lust defiles our conscience, feeds our sinful flesh, and withers our spiritual vitality.

If we are experiencing the ravages of spiritual drought, it may be because we are entertaining our minds with lust and feeding our sinful desires with suggestive movies, magazines, internet sites, or by simply visiting the local mall. The only remedy called for here is sincere confession and repentance (Prov. 28:13; I John 1:9). In order to find our souls once again enthralled with the joy of our salvation, we must confess these sins and turn from them (Ps. 51:1-12), resolving to no longer make any provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14).

2. Pride

Jesus, in confronting the Pharisees' desire for self-exaltation, provides a valuable insight as to how pride relates to faith. The Pharisees were unable to see the truth and beauty of Christ, because they were infatuated with their own glory and loved receiving praise from men. Jesus asks them, "How can you believe when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" (John 5:44). Saving faith was hindered by their pride.

Although this passage speaks specifically of pride obstructing saving faith, I think we can safely apply this principle to our lives as Christians: pride kills faith in Jesus. If we are nurturing self-love—seeking praise and appreciation from our friends, our congregation, our professors, our supervisor, or those who read our blogs—we will find out very quickly that "God opposes the proud" (James 4:6). Our souls will shrivel as we fill them with the glory that comes

from man. On the other hand, turning from ourselves and our reputations to exalt Christ at all costs will bring about spiritual renewal since "[God] gives grace to the humble."

3. Love of Money

There is also a direct correlation between our attachment to stuff and our ability to see the glory of God. Jesus connects our physical gaze with our spiritual sight in Matthew 6:19-23. Christ instructs us to store up lasting treasures in heaven rather than temporary riches here on earth. Whether we do this or not will have a significant impact on our affections, for "where [our] treasure is, there [our] heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

Jesus continues, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness" (Matt. 6:22-23). In other words, if we are fixed upon the glitter of earthly riches, the brightness of God's glory cannot shine into our hearts, and we will only suffer spiritual thirst, not saturation. The solution here is to start taking our eyes off earthly riches. This is often helped through prayer and by regular and consistent giving to our churches, faithful gospel ministries, the poor, and to those in need. Isaiah 58:10-11 is encouraging: If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

4. Lack of Bible Reading, Meditation, and Prayer

When we neglect Bible reading, meditation, and prayer, we are cutting ourselves off from essential nourishment for our souls. It is impossible to thrive spiritually without feeding our minds and hearts with God's Word. Psalm 1 reminds us of the benefits of meditation:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, or stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the sear of scoffers, but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither, in all that he does, he prospers (Ps. 1:1-3)

On the other hand, our leaf *will* wither if we are not planting ourselves near the life-giving streams of God's Word. This reminder is especially important for those of us who tend toward service and who desire to stay busy and productive.

Although it is good to be busy and always abounding in the work of the Lord (I Cor. 15:58), our work can become empty, heartless, and sapped of power if we are not fueling ourselves with the spiritual food that comes from God's Word. We need to fight to set aside regular time to read, meditate, and pray over Scripture.

5. Too Much Time Indoors

It is easy to see why blatant sins like lust, pride, and the love of money can impede spiritual passion and affection. It is not so easy to discern the subtle effects other lifestyle habits have on our zeal and vitality. One area that I find receives little attention is the role of the creation in maintaining our spiritual health. But if the heavens declare the glory of God (Ps. 19:1), and if we are refreshed by seeing God's glory, it would only make sense to go outside in order to behold that glory!

At times I can literally feel my faith revived as I spend a few minutes looking up at the grandeur of a clear night sky, filled with *unfathomable* expressions of power and creativity. I can find refreshment in a simple hike or walk. I do not think this is simply because I "love the outdoors." I love the outdoors—not because I can get REI dividend credits—but because I can see glory, and seeing this glory has often served to restore my weary soul.

6. Lack of Exercise

This ties in with the last point but belongs in its own category, because one does not necessarily need to be outdoors in order to get exercise. Now, lest this sound unspiritual and more like I am suggesting things that are only beneficial to those of a particular physiological makeup, let me have Donald S. Whitney weigh in on this often neglected yet important topic:

Our bodies are not merely disposable containers for our eternal souls. God could have made us to be disembodied souls, living forever in a condition like the souls in Heaven live while waiting for resurrected bodies...But He created us to be complete as a unity of body and soul....One of the ways the body can have a positive effect upon the soul is through recreational physical activity. Because most spiritual practices [disciplines: reading, writing, study, meditation, etc.] are by definition spiritual and not very physical, if our daily work is mostly mental and sedentary then there's little diversity in the kind of stimuli we experience. And the monotony of that can lessen the impact of our spiritual practices. The variety that recreational physical activity provides to the brain cells and muscle fibers of a body may help to refresh the soul that dwells in it. (Simplify Your Spiritual Life, p. 159)

Many will find their spiritual vitality renewed by simply going on a thirty-minute walk or run, or by going for a swim, or by riding their bike, or by hiking some of the trails near their house. I am often amazed at how a little bit of exercise benefits me mentally and spiritually. Perhaps you are pursuing the Lord, mortifying sin, regular in Bible reading and prayer, and yet find your soul dry and dusty. Maybe you should go on a run.

7. Neglect of Responsibilities

When we choose laziness over diligence, this can often lead to spiritual dryness, even depression. And this process usually perpetuates itself: laziness will create spiritual dryness. When we are spiritually dry and depressed, we are usually not powerfully motivated to pursue diligence. But it is precisely at this point that we need to break the cycle.

We were made to work—when we subvert this fundamental aspect of our personhood, we will find ourselves spiritually dry and frustrated. Laziness never satisfies. This is one reason why Scripture is replete with commands to pursue diligence and faithfulness. If we find ourselves in a spiritual desert, we should consider whether or not we have been faithful in our responsibilities.

8. Morbid Introspection

Ironically, when we find ourselves spiritually dry, it is best not to ruminate over our condition for too long—this can lead to an unhealthy preoccupation with ourselves and to morbid introspection. This is another situation that can perpetuate itself: the more we experience spiritual drought, the more we are tempted to examine ourselves and look inside; the more we look inside, the more we may experience spiritual frustration. Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones is insightful here:

I suggest that we cross the line from self-examination to introspection when, in a sense, we do nothing but examine ourselves, and when such self-examination becomes the main and chief end of our life. We are meant to examine ourselves periodically, but if we are always doing it, always, as it were, putting our soul on a plate and dissecting it, that is introspection. And if we are always talking to people about ourselves and our problems and troubles, and if we are forever going to them with that kind of frown upon our face saying: I am in great difficulty—it probably means that we are all the time centered upon ourselves. That is intro-

spection, and that in turn leads to the condition known as morbidity. (*Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Its Cure*, p. 17)

When we are focused on ourselves, for even what we consider a good reason, this can lead to more spiritual dryness because we are turning away from an infinite source of spiritual refreshment to a finite and sinful human being. We must be careful to not let our self-examination turn into a fixed gaze upon our hearts.

9. Forgetting the Gospel and Living in Legalism

When the Galatian Christians began to drift from the gospel, Paul's response was to remind them of how they first enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit:

Oh foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness?" (Gal. 3:1-6)

The Galatians experienced the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit, not by keeping commandments in order to gain salvation, but by hearing and believing a message—the gospel message. We are all in danger of drifting like these Galatians. After having received the Holy Spirit by faith, we attempt to perfect ourselves by the flesh and in our own strength, trying to *earn* some favor with God.

This is why I believe Jerry Bridges is right when he reminds us to "Preach the gospel to ourselves every day." The truth of the gospel—the benefits of Christ's substitutionary life and death on our behalf are received by faith alone—regularly poured into our minds and hearts, will guard us from deadening legalism and subsequent spiritual dryness.

A Few Closing Thoughts

None of these suggestions will guard us from all spiritual drought. Because we are sinful and because we live in a fallen world with fallen bodies, we must face up to the reality that spiritual dryness will come again. That is why the psalmist says that the Word of God *restores* his soul (Ps. 19:7). That it was in need of restoring implies that his soul was no longer in a happy, satisfied state—it was in need of refreshment.

Knowing this and recognizing potential causes of spiritual drought can help us to weather seasons of little or no rain.

The most encouraging word I could give is probably this: there is coming a day when there will be no more drought, only abundance. We will someday enjoy the actual presence of Christ and find at his right hand pleasures forever (Psalm 16:11)—increasing joy and satisfaction for all for eternity. What keeps us moving through the desert is knowing for certain that an oasis lies over the next hill. Let's keep moving. •

true opium of the people is a belief in nothingness after death—the huge solace of thinking that for our betrayals, greed, cowardice, and murders, we are not going to be judged.

Thus, since God does exist, <u>atheism can be seen as a psychological escape mechanism to avoid taking ultimate responsibility for one's own life.</u>

Polish Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz

Missionary of the Week

Kendra Stanford Team Expansion - India

Deeper Connections

This month, I'm thankful for opportunities to spend time with individuals and community groups to share about how God has been working in my life and ministry and how He's leading as I prepare to return to the field.

I've also had the opportunity to help some dear friends prepare for their wedding and it was so special to be here for their big day!

I'm thankful for this season with family and friends and opportunities to connect more deeply with with my supporters and friends as well as family.

Here's What I've Been Up To



Celebrating Birthdays

February has always been a month of celebration for my family with all of our birthdays and my parents' anniversary falling in the month. It's been fun to be home to celebrate with my family at some of our favorite spots this year and have time together!

Celebrating a Friend's Wedding

This month a life-long close friend got married. I wasn't sure if I would be Stateside long enough to attend or not but I'm so thankful I got to be here to celebrate with her, her new husband, and their families! It was special to help with decorating and preparations and have quality time together to share about how God is working through our lives. I'm thankful I got to be here for this milestone in their lives as they start this new chapter together



When I was living in Richmond a few years ago, I had the opportunity to take a class on missions called Perspectives. One of my



friends who worked to coordinate that class is now living in Georgia and coordinating another group here! Over the past few weeks, I've had the opportunity to attend

as an alumni and it's been very encouraging to be part of. I'm thankful for what I'm learning the second time around and for opportunities to share testimonies and stories from the field with the students taking this class for the first time!

Praise Updates:

- I'm so thankful for God's provision and many of you praying and becoming prayer and/or financial partners in ministry!
- I'm thankful for good meetings and encouraging conversations while I've been in the US. I love how God has used so many of you as an encouragement in this season and for the opportunity to connect.
- I'm thankful for ways that I've seen God shaping and molding me and continuing to teach and prepare me for the work He has for me to pursue in this next season.

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for me as I travel to Atlanta next week for my visa application appointment! Please pray for safe travel, my visa to be granted and favor with the staff as I turn in all the required documents. (Note: she had her interview 3/5 and is waiting for an answer.)
- Please pray that God will continue to guide and lead my steps and for my return to India to be in His perfect timing.
- Please pray for my Indian family and friends that God will be working in them to prepare their hearts to be open and yearning to learn about truth and open to hearing about Him when I return.

Nursery March 10 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker **Preschoolers:**

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Nursery March 17 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford **Toddlers:**

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Brittany Hall, Elinor Morris

Right Now Media

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC					
Today					
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.				
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.				
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.				
Choir Practice	5:00 p.m.				
Tuesday					
Election Day					
Joy Class in Youth House	9:00 a.m.				
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.				
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.				
Deacons' Meeting in Youth House	7:00 p.m.				
Wednesday					
Supper: Corned Beef & Cabbage	5:30 p.m.				
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.				
Youth	6:30 p.m.				
Bible Study	6:45 p.m.				
Thursday					
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.				
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.				
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.				

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for March

Cole Morris, Jay Rowe

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Exodus" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"Exodus" Youth House: Steve Posner
"Heaven Rules" Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith
"Parenting" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller

Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24: Eleanor Bowden, Linnea Posner Pre-K Room 25: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Youth Guvs Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Youth Girls Avalon DeLoach Room 206: