



THE *Spiceland Friend*

A publication of Spiceland Friends Church, Spiceland, Indiana

April 2017



Blossoming Whether You Are Seen or Not

"Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him . . ." Luke 24:31

This past Sunday the scripture passage was John 9 – the story of the man born blind and the account of Jesus healing him. The story included an investigation by the religious leaders, an interrogation of the man's parents, and a second encounter between the man and Jesus. The man was healed by Jesus, and he could see for the first time in his life. Imagine how he must have felt as he saw people's faces that he knew, but had never seen, and as he saw trees, flowers, and buildings. These things had been there all the time, but he had never seen them. The conversation quickly moved to a deeper level as Jesus talked to the religious leaders about their spiritual blindness and why they could not understand. Then Jesus found the man and talked to him about seeing the Messiah and believing on him. The man said, "Show me" and Jesus said, "He is standing right in front of you." Jesus helped the man to see both physically and spiritually.

In the context of that scripture, I told about a house in our neighborhood that is in foreclosure and has been vacant for over a year. The yard is a

mess – no leaves raked last fall, no fallen sticks and branches picked up, and no tender, loving care of any kind. It makes you want to look the other way when you go by. However, this past week I looked over at the yard and under a big tree, surrounded by weeds and grass, were two big patches of beautiful daffodils in full bloom. For the most part, no one saw them, no one was cutting them and taking them in the house for a bouquet, no one was enjoying their beauty, but they were still blooming. Amazing that something so beautiful could be hidden by something so ugly that it would be easy not to see the beautiful daffodils.

John's gospel is filled with stories that show us how to see God's work more clearly, how to see spiritually, and how to recognize God's grace and love in the most unexpected places. Stories like turning the water into wine, Nicodemus and his questions, the woman at the well, and this man born blind – these all illustrate and highlight the hidden and plenteous grace of God. Grace is something we don't deserve, but it is given freely. Our job is to open our eyes and see it working in our life and in the world around us. Sometimes, the problems in our life or in the world become overwhelming and, like the foreclosed house, they overshadow and hide the beauty of God's grace.

This month includes our Easter celebration, and we continue asking Jesus to help us see his work more clearly and to help us to do the work to which he has called us. Join us each Sunday with an open mind and listening heart as we join the early disciples in seeing Jesus more clearly.

David Brack

Candy and Cookie Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt

It's hard to believe, but Easter will be here before you know it, and that means that before long our annual Easter egg hunt will be taking place, and we need your help! We need to fill 1,000 Easter eggs! **Candy should be individually wrapped and small enough to fit into the eggs.** Also, we need some more plastic eggs as some of the old ones were cracked and had to be thrown away, and we always lose some each year, too. Place donations in the box in the Welcome Center.

Also, cookie donations are needed to help us serve refreshments at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 15. Cookies can be homemade or store bought. Please bring them to the church any time the week before Easter and by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 15. A sign-up sheet is in the Welcome Center.

Easter Egg Hunt Is April 15

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m. The children (ages toddler through 5th grade) will be divided into



different age groups to hunt for eggs. Bring the kids for a wonderful family gathering. Refreshments will be available.

The event is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee. Prizes will be awarded for each age category. The event will be held rain or shine – outside in nice weather and indoor if raining. Each child that participates will receive a gift bag.

Upcoming Easter and Spring Activities

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m. – Help the Christian Education Committee stuff Easter Eggs

Saturday, April 15, 1:00 p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16 – Easter!

8:00 a.m. – Community Early Easter Service and breakfast at Spiceland United Methodist Church

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School at SFC

10:30 a.m. – Special Easter worship service at SFC

Community Early Morning Easter Service

This year's community early morning Easter service will be held at **Spiceland United Methodist Church** (123 North 2nd St.) at 8:00 a.m. Join us for a special time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus as well as the forgiveness, hope, joy, and new life God offers us each day! **David Brock** will bring the message. Immediately following the service, join us for a delicious breakfast. Bring your family and friends!

Special Easter Service Planned

On Easter Sunday – April 16 – we will have a special Easter service at 10:30 a.m. **David Brock**



will bring an Easter message of hope and new life in Christ, and a variety of inspiring special music will be shared. Come and sing your favorite Easter hymns and bring a friend or invite your family. Sunday School classes will meet at the regular time of 9:30

a.m. that day.

Help Decorate Our Church for Easter



If you would like to furnish a flower or plant for Easter Sunday, April 16, please fill out a form available in the Welcome Center at the church and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office. The flowers need to be at the church by 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 15, so the Decorating Committee has time to arrange them. A memorial list will be printed in the May newsletter. Any type of flowers or plants are welcome! You can take them home with you after worship on Easter Sunday.

Mark your calendar for this year's **"Maker Fun Factory"** Vacation Bible School – June 19-23, from 6:00-8:30 each evening at SFC.

Worship Assistants for April

Scripture Readers

April 2 – Barbara Lacy
April 9 – Heather Groce
April 16 – Teresa Batt
April 23 – Beth Carr
April 30 – Michelle Clapp

Junior Church

April 2 – Tyler Little
April 9 – Linda Brock
April 16 – Kids stay in worship
April 23 – Amanda Huss
April 30 – Cathy Harris

Hosts for March – Jim & Janet Putnam

Children's Message – Charlene Williams



Sermon Topics for April

David Brock will be preaching each Sunday in April.

April 2

Sermon – “Jesus, Teach Us About Answers to Prayer”

Scripture – John 11:1-45

April 9

Sermon – “Jesus, Teach Us About Celebrating”

Scripture – Matthew 21:1-11

April 16

Sermon – “Jesus, Teach Us About Your Resurrection”

Scripture – John 20:1-18

April 23

Sermon – “Jesus, Teach Us to See You More Clearly”

Scripture – John 20:19-31

April 30

Sermon – “Jesus, Teach Us to Do Your Work”

Scripture – Luke 24:13-35 and 45:49

Men's Bible Study Meets Every Tuesday

Mark Thompson leads the Men's Bible Study every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Mary M Room. They have concluded a study of Hebrews, and on April 4, they will begin a study of the book of Revelation. All men are invited to come – newcomers are always welcome!

New Grief Support Group Begins April 27

A new GriefShare grief support group will be starting on Thursday evenings beginning April 27. The class will offer support and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, parent, family member, or friend.

The class will provide a warm, caring environment, and includes three parts – encouraging, information-packed videos, small group discussion about the weekly video content, and a workbook for your personal use that includes additional information on each week's theme, scripture readings, and questions to reflect on that week.

Some of the topics included are: Is this normal? The challenges of grief. The journey of grief. Grief and your relationships. Why? Guilt and anger. Complicating Factors. What do I live for now?

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is “self-contained,” and you can pick up missed sessions later.

The class is led by **Janet Putnam** and **Cathy Harris** – and assisted by **Lisa Knotts**. The group will meet 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Mary M. Room. The class meets for 13 weeks and will go through July 27 (no meeting on June 22 during VBS).

The class is free and open to anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, please pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center, and please invite others who might benefit to join us. Contact Janet or Cathy if you'd like more information.



Youth Group Picture of the Month

This month's youth group picture is of our very energetic and Jesus-loving elementary student, **Alex Groce**.



Walking Groups Continue

Interested in adding some exercise to your weekly routine? We invite you to come to the church Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. and walk with your friends. Everyone is welcome! Walk at your own pace and for the length of time that works best for you. It's an opportunity to not only get some exercise, but to encourage and support one another. You can also enjoy a cup of **Pam Pyle's** fresh, hot coffee or a cup of tea and some fresh fruit or snacks and spend some time visiting with one another. The last scheduled walking session will be Wednesday, April 19, until we start up again in September. Of course, you are always welcome to come and walk whenever the church is open.



Please Remember in Prayer



Church Family

Janet Craft – recovering from surgery
Nancy Coffin Coleman – heart attack
Libby Henshaw – sciatic nerve pain, steroid injection
Tom Ratcliff – hospice care
Don Rutledge – completed radiation treatments
Mildred Gephart – stroke, not doing well
Irene & Monte Goodwin – moved to Forest Ridge Assisted Living

Extended Family and Friends

Jacob Smith (nephew of Linda & Richard Ratcliff) – serious condition
Theresa Wilson (Cathy Harris) – thyroid cancer treatments
Family of Heather Poe (killed in car accident) – boyfriend's mother is member of our Grief Support Group (Chris Stout)
Family of Lindsey Webster (Rita Reeves) – killed in car accident
Rosie Fowler (Beth Carr) – recurrence of cancer
Ron Moffitt (Lisa Knotts) – cataract surgery
Sister of Jim Williams – living situation uncertain
Friend of Dave Moore – having some serious problems
Jackie (Strunk) Clendenin – serious health problems, testing
Kenny Carter (Marilyn Ingle) – advanced cancer
Chuck Pew (Virginia Cripps) – pancreatic & liver cancer
Tom Leonard (Priscilla James) – broken ankle
Anita Williams (Lisa Little) – cancer treatments
Sarah Maley (Kandi Rutledge) – metastasized breast cancer
Our country and servicemen and women

Congratulations to the Best!

David Brock and **Beth Carr** were each named "The Best" in their career in Henry County in a recent Courier-Times Reader Poll. David was named Best Attorney, and Beth was named Best Realtor. Congratulations to these friends!

With Sympathy

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of **Patricia "Patsy" Pitts**, who passed away on March 21 in Anderson.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Jim & Charlene Williams** upon the unexpected passing of Jim's brother, **Arlin**, on March 9.

Notes of Thanks

"Thank you very much for giving our shelter a wonderful donation."

– **Melody Ford**, The Guest House

"I know that many of you have sent me cards and said many prayers for me over the past five years. I want you all to know how much I appreciate the kindness you have shown me. Your thoughts and prayers mean the world to me. And they must be working as I'm still living a very fulfilling life. I've been through many scares, several surgeries, several tries at chemotherapy and other medications. Yet I continue to enjoy doing activities with my friends and family. I can't thank you enough!"

– **Jackie Jones**

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who filled a baby bottle for the recent **Baby Bottle Boomerang** which benefits the **Henry County Pregnancy Care Center** in New Castle. A record **\$716.15** was collected! The Director, **Janet Modjeski**, was overwhelmed by the generosity of Spiceland Friends.

Spiceland Cares Day Is May 6

Spiceland Cares Day is Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We need volunteers and projects. Please e-mail Spiceland.cares@gmail.com by April 17 or see **Donna Tauber**, **Jody French**, or **Pam Stigall**. Thank you!

– **Donna Tauber**

Directory Change

Barbara Ward

115 N. 4th Street, P. O. Box 411

Spiceland, IN 47385

Phone: 987-1360

524-2679 (cell)

E-mail: Barbara_115@comcast.net

Barbara's winter information is the same as listed in the Church Directory.

2017 Camp Dates

You may not be thinking about summer camp with the rainy, chilly weather we've been having, but that time will roll around before you know it. Listed below are this summer's camps. The church pays half of the fee for each youth camper. See **Tyler Little** for more information. You can register online at www.quakerhaven.com. Early Bird Pricing ends May 31 for all summer camps.



Beginners Camp (ages 5-7) – June 16-18

Adventure Camp (ages 9-11) – June 25-30

Sr. High Camp 1-2 (ages 13-18) – June 18-23;
July 16-21

Little Friends Camp (ages 7-9) – July 5-8

Jr. High Camp (ages 11-13) – June 11-16

Young Adult Camp (ages 20-35) – June 9-11

He is risen!

W. E. Sangster (1900-1960), a well-known pastor in England, contracted a progressive, incurable muscle disease. He lost the ability to move his legs, and eventually his voice faded away. Because Sangster wanted to continue serving God even though he could no longer preach, he became a prolific writer and organized prayer cells throughout England.

On Easter morning, shortly before his death, he wrote a note to his daughter in an unsteady hand. "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!'" he wrote. "But it would be still more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."