

THE

Bugle

March 2016
A Publication of
Bethany Christian Church

1920 N. Rangeline Road
Anderson, IN 46012
Phone: 765.643.5713
www.bccanderson.org

EASTER

worship schedule

SUNDAY MORNING:
9:00 A.M.
Worship
Sunday School
Kids Church

10:30 A.M.
Worship
Sunday School

3/20 – Praise Ringers
3/24 – Family Communion Service
3/27 – Easter Sunday
4/3 – Worship Choir
4/10 – Big Band



On Sunday, Feb. 21st, these families made a commitment to fulfill God's calling to bring up their children to know, love and serve God.

Baby/Family Dedication



Chris & Ariel Bell
Miles & Paxton



Ryan & DaNae Spangler
MaKenna, Myla & McElle



(Anthony) & Kara
Highsmith, Ethan
(Elizabeth, Elliot & Emilee)



Austin & Laura Walls
Liam, Meyer & Meredith



Tyler & Jennifer Jugg, Gideon & Leia



Ryan & Sandi
Sprunger
Reese, Kendall
& Lainey

STAFF:
Bob Bell,
Senior Minister

Chris Bell,
Students

Gabriel Ohmes,
Worship

Tim Fair,
Discipleship

Tisha Schultz,
Children

Prepare for Action

Bob Bell

I remember one individual who said his daily practice was to roll out of bed onto his knees and begin his morning with prayer. I liked the idea. I tried the idea. But I have found the older I get the harder it is, not to get on my knees, but to get back up. However, I still believe it is a good way to start the day. (Please do not assume I have mastered this discipline of prayer at the beginning of each day. I am still learning!)

Prayer in the morning provides opportunity to be grateful for a night's rest and the beginning of a new day. Prayer in the morning is a good time to remember that God was able to handle things just fine without me all night long. You do realize God covered all the bases while you were sleeping? Prayer in the morning reminds me God is still present and faithful as I start this new day. I am sure you can add to the list of positive outcomes of morning prayer.

One reality of prayer in the morning, which I have discovered, is that morning prayer moves me from the rest I enjoyed throughout the night to the activity which awaits me for the day. I will admit, there are times I really do not want to face activity. There are times I would rather just go from resting throughout the night to relaxing throughout the day. (Fortunately, God has created Sabbath, if we would trust Him and take advantage of it.) But prayer in the morning usually focuses my attention on the activity and work to be done during the day.

In 1 Peter 1:13, Peter writes, "Therefore, prepare your minds for action." The Bible says to prepare

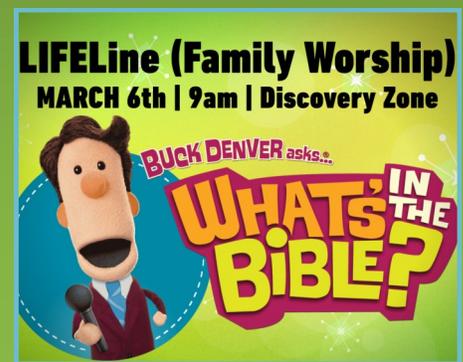
our minds for action. As I read those words, I was reminded that following Jesus or the Christian life is not a passive existence. Following Jesus is not just believing certain things which protect us or help us throughout our lives, but following Jesus is a commitment to do something—Christianity and faith are active.

Much of our lives are lived out defensively. Much of our existence is trying to handle, adapt, and not be broken by the events, occurrences, and happenings of the day. Faith is seen as defensive. We may even point to Ephesians 6:16 and "the shield of faith" as our proof text. Faith is a defense against the attacks of Satan and the difficulties of life. Yes, but a shield is not just a defensive weapon used as an enemy attacks, faith is an offensive weapon used as an army pushes forward.

Words associated with following Jesus are action words: love, encourage, strengthen, go, shine, disciple, be holy, sacrifice, worship, give, help, etc. Following Jesus is not passive. Following Jesus is taking up our shield of faith and moving forward. Following Jesus is not simply enduring or deflecting whatever difficulties or inconveniences come our way during the day. Following Jesus is to actively move forward during the day. Who can we help today? Who can we encourage today? Who can we strengthen today? How can I shine today? Who can I love today? Morning prayer is a time to prepare our minds for action. Faith is not only defensive, but it is also used as we move forward.

Following Jesus is a commitment to do something - Christianity and faith are active.

Upcoming Events



It was one of those conversations that breaks your heart as a parent—having a conversation with my son about how another student in his class had said some unkind words to and about him that will probably forever remain in his mind. It was a wound that I wish, as his father, I could take for him. But instead, he now has that wound, and it felt like it hurt me more than it did him. My initial thought was I wanted to go punch this other kid, but then I calmed myself down and began to ask God “what do I do with this now?”

I dropped him off at school the next morning and had to fill up on some gas, so I stopped at the only gas station there in town. As I was pumping gas, that conversation I had with my son the night before kept going through my mind. I pulled out from the gas station and headed to work. I passed back by my son's school and then it hit me. I felt like God was telling me to pray for my son, so I began to pray. I prayed for my son that morning through my tears. And as I was praying for my son, I thought of Psalm 23.

Psalm 23 is one of the many written by David. In the psalm, it talks about God being our Shepherd, and verse 5 came to mind.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

At certain times of the year, flies, mosquitoes and other insects would often attack the shepherd's flocks. These insects would especially attack the heads of the



sheep, burrowing into their ears and noses. The results could range from irritation to disease to even death. These insects would fly up the noses and often would hatch eggs in the heads of the sheep. It's not uncommon for you to see sheep banging their heads on rocks or hard objects to

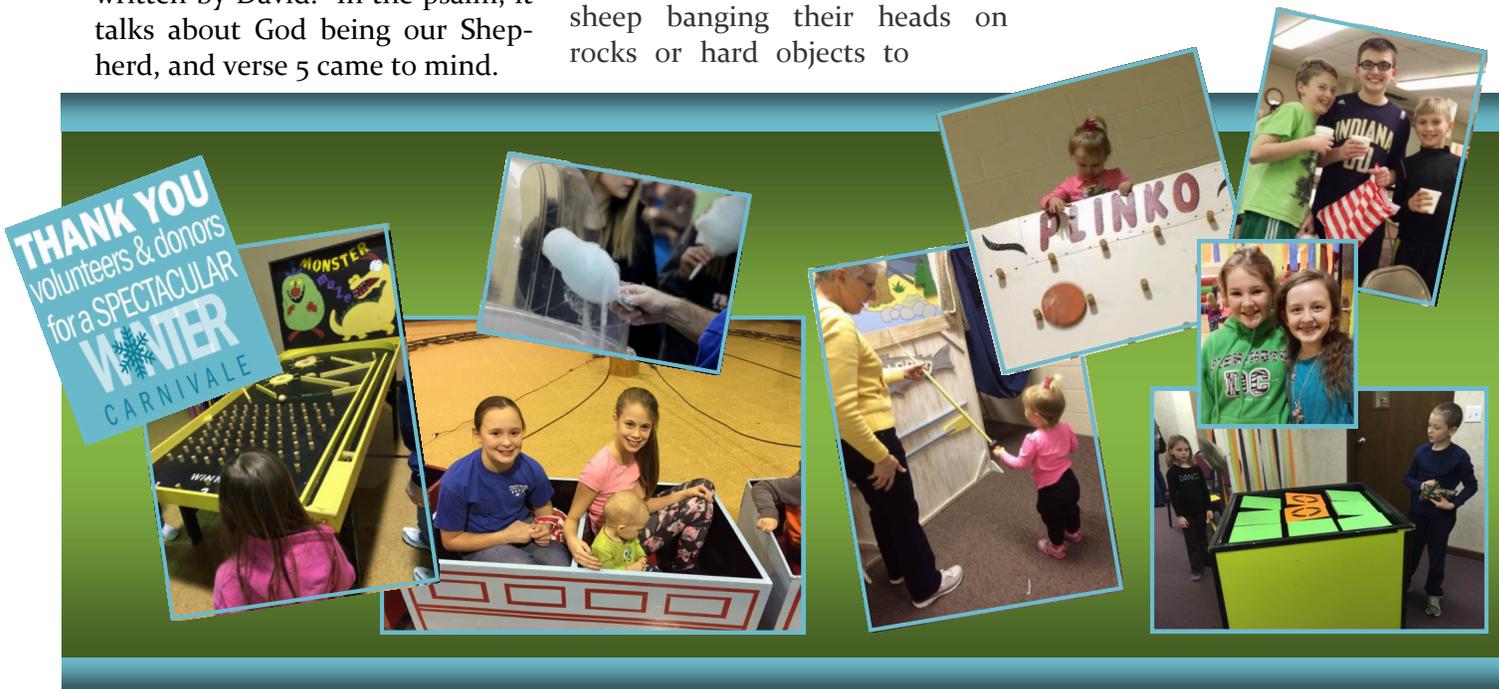
try to get the insects out of their head and get rid of the pain. To protect the sheep, a good shepherd would make a mixture of oil and anoint the head of the sheep, rubbing the oil into its wool, especially around its nose, eyes, and ears. The sheep had no idea what was going on or why their shepherd was placing oil on their heads, but it was to protect them.

I wonder if that day driving by my son's school praying for him was like me placing oil on his head; protecting him from the enemy, from the attacks of the evil one.

I then quickly jumped to this thought: I also wonder how often the Father places oil on my head when I don't even know it, how often he protects me from the evil one.

We have a Good Shepherd that takes care of us and protects us, even when we don't see it or know that it is happening. We have a Good Shepherd that anoints us with oil.

May we come to know and trust that our Shepherd is always before us, taking care of us and loving us in ways that we don't even see.



THE BETHANY BUGLE

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(USPS 106-930), published monthly by Bethany Christian church, 1920 North Rangeline, Anderson, IN 46012-9666. Periodicals Postage paid at Anderson, IN.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE BETHANY BUGLE, 1920 North Rangeline Rd,
Anderson.

VOLUME XLI, ISSUE 3

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MARCH 2016

Births

McElle Ryan Spangler - 1/5/16

Parents: Ryan & DaNae Spangler

Sagan Kenzie - 1/10/16

Parents: Sydney Jackson & Scott Thunelius; **Grandparents:** Michael & Tammy Nicolosi; **Great-grandparents:** Bob & Mary Jackson

Meredith Rose Walls - 1/18/16

Parents: Austin & Laura Walls

Gwendolyn Burris - 1/30/16

Parents: Brian & Lindsey Burris; **Grandparents:** Alan & Karen Hoopinger; **Great-grandparents:** Glen & Georgia Hoopinger

Zora Nixine Reyes - 2/21/16

Parents: Michael & Lori Reyes

New Decisions

Jack Binnion - 1/24/16

Mary Binnion - 1/24/16

Mark Ellingwood - 2/7/16



Don't forget to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Saturday night, March 12th!

Deaths

Robert L. Branigan - 1/2/16

Son of Francis Branigan; Uncle of Shelly Houser

Paulene Carol Whiting - 1/4/16

Daughter of Viola Walters; Sister of Kenny Walters

John Linn - 1/4/16

Brother of Jean Brumfield

Martha Campbell - 1/4/16

William Isaacs - 1/29/16

Father of Milly Isaacs

Rosa Renfro - 2/1/16

Mother of Jim (Diane) Renfro; Grandmother of Jeff Renfro

Maryln L. Wilson Gill - 2/5/16

Mother of Rae Jean (Phil) Powell; Grandmother of Christopher (Brea) Powell, Nathan Powell & Kylie Powell

Linda Cantrell - 2/9/16

Mother of Rhonda (Ramiro) Ramirez; Grandmother of Michelle (Chris) Ray & Dustin (Jamie) Ramirez

David Kennedy - 2/16/16

Brother of Sharon (Mike) Cookman

Frank Hart - 2/20/16

Brother of Candy (Rudy) Ballard, Tom (Patricia) Hart & Ed Hart

Merom Barnes - 2/21/16

Aunt of Shirley Fox & Jan Yates

Statistics as of January 2016:

GENERAL BUDGET

- January Offerings \$59,503
- Year-to-date budget needs \$80,192
- Year-to-date actual giving \$59,503
- Amount under YTD \$20,689
- Budgeted weekly income \$16,038
- Average weekly income \$11,901

FAITH PROMISE

Funds sent to C.M.F. for support of the Kineman Family (Individuals/classes)

- January offerings \$3,500.05
- YTD offerings \$3,500.05

AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- Year-to-date 470 (as of 1/31/16)

Please contact the church office (765-643-5713) if you would like to request giving envelopes or set up your gifts for automatic withdrawal.