

First Press

First Reformed Presbyterian Church

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America.

12900 Frankstown Road • Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15235

Advancing the Gospel this Easter Season

With "Holy Week" just around the corner, I want to encourage you to take advantage of the season to advance the gospel of Christ. Perhaps you have been out of the habit of speaking about Christ or at a loss to know what to say. If that is the case, I'd like to share with you one way of broaching the subject during this time of year. It is very simple and only requires that you have a Bible with you. You merely ask another person if he has ever read Psalm 22. If he hasn't, ask him if you could read it to him. Don't worry, most unbelievers have never read it; they may be familiar with Psalm 23, but they usually have no idea what is in Psalm 22.

I remember very distinctly the first time I read Psalm 22 while eating lunch in the cafeteria at the university. I read it through once, and then I read it again and again. It is an understatement to say that I was amazed and dumbfounded that there was such a passage in the Old Testament. I had grown up in the church and attended every week but could never remember hearing Psalm 22 read during a worship service, and I certainly had never read it myself. What a powerful prophecy of the sufferings of Christ! Written nearly a thousand years before Christ' crucifixion, David describes His suffering and persecution in detail.

Here are some of those details: Jesus quoted the opening words of the Psalm as one of His seven sayings from the cross (Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34); the mockery of verses 7 and 8 was echoed by the priests (Matthew 27:39-44; Mark 15:31-32; Luke 23:35); the division of clothing in verse 18 was also fulfilled by the soldiers (John 19:23,24). Further, the sufferer's agony in verses 14 to 17 (*his disjointed bones, his thirst and his pierced hands and feet*) is a remarkable description of the horrors of crucifixion described in the gospels.

With this information in mind, just read through the Psalm with them and compare it with the gospel account in either Matthew or Mark. Be sure to pray for their understanding and that God would open their heart to receive the gospel. Then ask them if they know why Jesus died on the cross? Give it a try; perhaps God will open a door for you to present the gospel to them.

Pastor Bowlin

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 5

7:00 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday
Communion Service*

APRIL 6

7:00 p.m.

*Joint Good Friday
Worship*

APRIL 8

9:00 a.m.

Congregational Breakfast

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

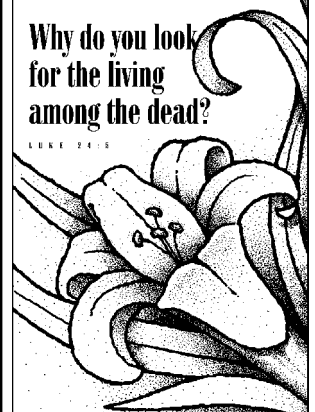
*Easter Morning
Worship*

6:30 p.m.

*Easter Evening
Worship*

**Why do you look
for the living
among the dead?**

LUKE 24:5



Missions Focus: David and Barbara Cross (England)

The Crosses have been church planters on two other continents before going to England. They were the first family sent to Australia by World Presbyterian Missions, a predecessor to Mission to the World (MTW). They spent 11 years there and took part in starting 14 churches. Now some of those people help support the work in England. In 1981 they returned to the US and served a church in Carlisle, PA, first as organizing pastor and then as pastor until 1990.

In 1987, an organization was formed in England for the purpose of developing a Presbyterian church. While England was the birthplace of the Westminster Confession, Presbyterianism had died due to years of liberal theology. The only Evangelicals present were lacking in content and focused on experience. The leaders of the organization began searching for someone with church planting experience to help them. David accepted their call and went to England in 1992. He has helped them with the formation of the Evangelical Church of England and Wales. The Crosses also planted a church in Chelmsford, a town northeast of London. David's primary task is to coordinate additional church planting. He serves as clerk of presbytery and was instrumental in formulating all the documents to form the denomination. Barbara serves on the MTW Europe Care Council with the responsibility of caring for 49 MTW missionary women serving in Eastern Europe. The latest church plant is in Solihull, a suburb of Birmingham. Al and Julie Lutz retired from a church they planted in Kentucky (his second church plant) and gave 2 years to start a church in England. God's timing has been perfect. On March 17th the organizing pastor was ordained and the Lutz's will leave for the US on March 28th.

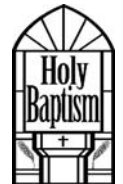
April Birthdays

3	Debbie Baker	19	Mikaila Carter Anna Lintelman
4	Trey Lilac		
5	Taylor Cole Serena Renda	20	Larry Bowlin
6	Dan Andrzejewski Alicia Henderson Michelle McClain Ryan McGuire	23	Pete Taylor
6		24	Stephanie Burton Walt Comin Claire Magnuson
7	Margaret McCormick Charles Smoak	25	Hannah Hargraves
8	Bill Dietz JoAnn Bolish Jeff Mattson Jeremy Smith	26	Alexandria Cervi Anne Jenkins
8		27	Dave Lawyer Bill Purdy
9	Dale McLane	29	Bill Airgood Jim Brown Stephen DiNatale Michael Murphy
10	Sharon D'Alicandro		
11	Heather Mattson	30	Danielle Campbell Autumn Matta
13	Shane Hicks		
15	Beth Smoak		
17	Jared Campbell		
18	Tiffany Powell		



Congratulations to
Ken & Leigh Boyer
on the birth of their son,
Dillon Robert
on February 27, 2007.

Luke Jacob Douglas
son of Eric and Julie Douglas
was baptized
on March 25, 2007.



Financial Summary January 1 - February 28, 2007

Operating Account:

Receipts \$ 51,619
Disbursements \$ 66,059

Account Balances -

Operating Checking \$ 4,879
Operating Saving \$ 81,505

Benevolence Account:

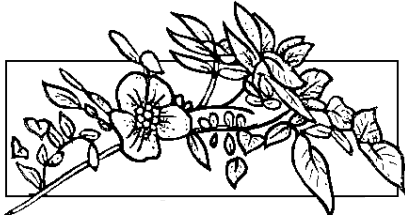
Income \$ 14,504
Disbursements \$ 13,169

Deacons' Fund: (as of 2/23/07)

Income \$ 1,000
Disbursements \$ 1,412

Account Balances -

Deacons' Checking \$ 10,175
Deacons' Money Mkt. \$ 10,730



April



2007

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p>1</p>  <p>Palm Sunday 4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Bowling</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Plum Covenant</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>No WIC Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Communion)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Good Friday Joint Worship</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>EASTER (No Promises)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Bowling</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 p.m. McLane Covenant Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Murrysville Covenant Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>No MOPS</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Youth Group Frisbee Golf - Schenley Park</p>
<p>15</p> <p>4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Great Commission Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Bowling</p> <p>7:00 p.m. WIC Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. WIC Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls, First Boys Club</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>4:45 p.m. Joint Youth Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Bowling</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 p.m. McLane Cov. Group</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Master Cov. Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Murrysville Covenant Group</p> <p>7:30 p.m. WIC Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:45 p.m. College & Career Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 a.m. MOPS</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Pioneer Girls - Awards Night, First Boys Club</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Presbytery Meeting - East Liverpool, OH</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Shepherding Groups Meeting (No Promises)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Bowling</p>			<p>Each Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 5:30 p.m. Promises 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship</p>		

Vacation Bible School June 25 - 29

Plan to join us this year
for a *High Seas* Vacation
Bible School adventure!
For children entering
Kindergarten this Fall
through 6th Grade.



Holy Week Schedule

Thursday, April 5

7:00 p.m.

*Maundy Thursday Worship
(Communion)*

Dr. Dean Ulrich, preaching

Friday, April 6

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday PCA Joint Worship
Shaun Nolan (pastor of View Crest
Presbyterian Church), preaching

Sunday, April 8

9:00 a.m. - *Congregational Breakfast*

9:45 a.m. - *Sunday School Classes*

10:45 a.m. - *Lord's Day Worship*

6:30 p.m. - *Evening Worship*