

Crowders Creek ARP Church



The great football coach of the Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi, is known to have said this, "Every time a football player goes out to ply his trade, he must play from the ground up. He must play from the soles of his feet right up to his head. Every inch of him has to play. Some men play with their heads and that's okay because you have to be smart but more important you have to play with your heart. A man must play with every fiber in his body. I've never met a man worth his salt who in the long run down in his heart didn't appreciate the grind. There is something in good men that really yearns for discipline. I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear is that moment when he has worked his heart out and lies exhausted on the field of battle victorious!"

Now as much as I love football and sports in general this is obviously NOT a Pastor's page about athletics and the importance of physical training. As much as I enjoy the excitement of the Super bowl and March madness these are NOT the most important things in life. What's interesting to me though is that many times in the Scriptures Paul uses the analogy of sports to teach us about the importance of spiritual training and discipline. In Philippians Paul uses the analogy of the runner "pressing on in the race to reach the prize as he pursues Christ Jesus." In 1 Corinthians Paul uses the analogy of running the Christian life like an athlete that trains for the 2012 Summer Olympics: with total focus and dedication. What Paul is saying is that the Christian life is a much, much greater endeavor than any event in this life. Why? because it involves eternity. This is why the Bible calls us to total dedication when it comes to spiritual training for the purpose of spiritual maturity.

The Scriptures are clear that GOD calls each believer to grow up into the likeness of Jesus Christ. The Word of GOD is crystal clear that we are called as His Church to grow into maturity together as His people in order to express to the world GOD's amazing love in Jesus Christ. In fact, this is what Paul prays for Christ's Church in Ephesians: "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in the heavens and on the earth is named, that He may grant you according to the wealth of His glory, to be strengthened in power through His Spirit in the inner human being so that Christ might dwell through faith in your hearts. You are rooted and founded in love in order that you may become strong enough to grasp with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, in order that you might be filled to all the fullness of GOD."(BECNT – Greek translation by Frank Thielman)

GOD gives the Christian everything we need for growth in Jesus Christ and through His Holy Spirit which dwells within us. Paul says to each believer: "you are rooted and grounded in love" for the purpose of growth in GOD's love. GOD has given us all we need to become all that He recreated us to become as individuals and as His Church. GOD is able to do above and beyond all we think or imagine or pray for. GOD's desire is for each Christian to experience more and more of just how incredible His love in Jesus Christ really is. This is at the heart of true spiritual growth: Christ dwelling within each Christian by faith as we each experience Him living in and through us. This experience renews and transforms us from the inside out. True spiritual growth only comes from God our Father as we each seek Him in prayer. The Christian's experience of Christ's amazing love involves the progressive transformation of our entire beings – from the inside out! Our thinking is renewed to be like Christ's, our attitudes and actions are progressively transformed to be like Christ's. This is why we need to seek our Father in prayer for growth as Paul did, this is why we need to join together regular in Worship and fellowship with all the saints and this is why we need to seek GOD in His Word to grow. Sunday, January 8th we'll begin a Sermon Series from Ephesians on what every Christian is meant to be and do. "Spiritual Growth in God's family" will cover GOD and growth, growth and growing together, growth and the daily grind, growth and getting focused in the new year and many other titles. If you are a Christian you are meant to grow. Be there and find out how GOD brings real spiritual growth in you and through you by the power and love of Jesus Christ working in His true Church!

GOD Bless,
Pastor Ben



JANUARY

- 01/01 Ann Ferguson
- 01/03 Julie Millar
- 01/08 Scott Champion
- 01/09 Mandy Deal
- 01/10 Cavan Hoose
- 01/12 Ashley Stowe
- 01/15 George Falls Jackson
- 01/19 Heather Champion
- 01/19 Rebekah Rhyne
- 01/20 Elisea Meadows
- 01/21 Jimmy Cox
- 01/22 Mary Jackson
- 01/25 Emma Jo Sciba
- 01/26 Jett Norris
- 01/26 David Reid Styers
- 01/26 Betty Cribb
- 01/27 Jim Cox
- 01/28 Eddie Petty
- 01/30 Jason Hoose

Additional Ministers this Month...		
Date	Children's Church	Nursery
1/1	Felix & Michelle Alpizar	Allison & Martin Moses
1/8	Rick & Chris Oates	Charlie & Christy Rhyne
1/15	Laurie & Shirley Edwards	Carolyn Champion, Heather Owenby, & Marilyn Brooks
1/22	NONE	Mona & Tommy Davidson
1/29	Martin & Allison Moses	Felix & Michelle Alpizar, & Ava Mauney

Soldiers On Active Duty
Meredith Millar

Leadership Meetings
January 11—Deacon's Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
January 18—Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
January 22—Christian Education Mtg. at 5:00 p.m.

January Lectionary Texts
<p>January 1—New Year's Day Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46</p>
<p>January 8—First Sunday after the Epiphany Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11</p>
<p>January 15—Second Sunday after the Epiphany 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51</p>
<p>January 22—Third Sunday after the Epiphany Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20</p>
<p>January 29—Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28</p>

WOMEN'S CIRCLE
Women's Ministry General Meeting on Sunday, January 8th at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Congratulations Officers
 Congratulations to the newly elected Crowders Creek ARP Officers. There will be a special Ordination & Installation Service January 8th to ordain, install, and reinstall upcoming officers.

<p>Ordination & Installation of Elder Tommy Davidson Mike Moses</p>	<p>Reinstallation of Elder Rick Oates</p>
<p>Ordination & Installation of Deacon Gavin Bell</p>	<p>Reinstallation of Deacons Wayne McAllister Martin Moses Matt Grigg</p>

Soup Luncheon
Sunday, January 29th
12:00 p.m.
 Everyone is invited to join us for a Soup Luncheon to help raise money for the Flooring Fund. Please join us for fellowship and help support our church.

The Pastor's Cat

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church, He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc...The kitty would not come down.

The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten. That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went "boing!" and the kitten instantly sailed through the air—out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighborhood asking people if they'd see a little kitten. No. Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, "Lord, I just commit this kitten to Your keeping." and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, "Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?" She replied, "You won't believe this," and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days later, the child begged again, so the Mom finally told her little girl, "Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you keep it." She told the pastor, "I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really, Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her."

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humor. Anyone can count the seeds in an apple; but only God can count the apples in a seed.

God Can Do Above & Beyond

Women's Ministries Prayer Emphasis Program

Crowders Creek ARP Church

January 15, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

All ladies are encouraged to attend the Joint Prayer Emphasis with Pisgah ARP Church. The program will be held in the fellowship hall.

2012 Offering Envelopes are located in the vestibule. Please check off your name when you have picked up your envelopes. If you need 2012 envelopes please sign your name next to an available number.

Offering Envelopes



SPECIAL OFFERING

The quarterly offering for our **Social Concerns Ministry** will be received Sunday, January 15th. This ministry affords our assisting individuals in the community who experience temporary financial needs. If you would like to contribute, please use a special offering envelope provided in each pew, noting "Social Concerns."

Hymnal Fund



Hymnals can still be ordered until January 8th!!! Please pick up a Hymnal Fund insert in the vestibule if you are interested in purchasing a hymnal. Please return sheet and money in the offering plate.

Pastor's Ben's Office Hours



Pastor Ben's weekday work hours are **Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Pastor Ben is available **in the office** Tuesday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. He may be contacted as well after these hours through the church office or by his cell phone.

However, it is always suggested that you call to check (704-864-0196) since home and hospital visits are sometimes made during these times.



QUARTERLY COMMUNION

On Sunday, January 15th we shall partake of the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** during the worship hour. This will be our regularly scheduled quarterly observation and we urge all members and friends to join us for this most sacred event in the life of our congregation. As you go about your daily activities during the remainder of this week, we hope that you will pause for a few moments to reflect upon your life in preparation for next week.



*New Year's Sermon Series
Spiritual Growth in God's Family
Based on the Book of Ephesians
"We Are Family—Pt. 2"*

- Growth and God*
- Growth and Growing Together*
- Growth and Gifts*
- Growth and the Daily Grind*
- Growth and Godly Transformation*
- Growth and Giving Of God's love*
- Growth and Getting Focused*
- Growth and God's Holy Spirit*
- Growth and God's family*
- Growth and Good works*
- Growth and God's Armor*



FLOWERS

Anyone interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary may sign up on the Flower poster in the vestibule.

Wednesday Nights

Wednesday Night Bible Studies resume January 11th!! Join us each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. as we learn about the New Life and Power available through Jesus Christ. Wednesday Nights will include an Adult Bible study taught by Pastor Ben Wingard and a variety of classes for youth, children, and nursery age children.

Wednesday Night Schedule

6:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Classes for all Ages

*Middle School Student
Walk through the Bible*

*High School Students
So What?*

*Younger Children
Kids Quest*

*Older Children
Route 66*

Dinner: Donation \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family

HARPS

8 members of HARPS accompanied by Roger Brown and Lisa, friend of Terry Brown, had a delicious meal at Jimmy the Greek and then went on to view the beautiful lights of Tanglewood's Festival of Lights. We drove through the Tanglewood Park to see the spectacular display with a stop midway at the Holiday Gift Barn. Tanglewood Park is not far from Winston-Salem. What a lovely way to start the Christmas season on Thursday, December 1st!

HARPS

**Wednesday, January 18th 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall**

2012 Updates

We are in the process of creating the new year's **calendar**. Although I understand that changes may occur throughout the year, please contact me ASAP with any regular changes for the 2012 calendar. Thanks "*in advance*" for your help!!

Also, the **church directory & birthday list** is in the vestibule. Please take the time to make any corrections necessary for your personal information that will be in the 2012 directory.



Jodie Naylor
Church Secretary