

Crowders Creek ARP Church



Pastor's Page

A little boy named Gilbert did not have his dad to help him at a pinewood derby boxcar race but he still entered. Sure, his car looked a little lopsided, but he had not seen any of the other kids' cars and was feeling pretty good. Once Gilbert arrived and saw the other cars it was obvious that his car was the only one made entirely by a child. All the others we're clearly a father-son partnership, with cool paint jobs and sleek body styles made for speed. A few boys even giggled when they saw his car. Gilbert kept winning until he faced the sleekest car there. Just before the championship began Gilbert asked if he could pray before it began. Gilbert went to his knees, talked to God in prayer, and stood and said, "Now, I'm ready." The race began and to everyone's surprise Gilbert's car won! After the race the Scout Master came with an microphone in his hand to asked him the obvious question: "When you talked to God a moment ago did you ask him to help you win?" To which Gilbert said, "Oh, no sir. That wouldn't be fair to ask God to help you beat someone else. I just asked Him to make it so I wouldn't cry when I lost."

The fact is children do have much wisdom to offer us. They remind us of the most important things of life. Jesus said that, "The Kingdom of Heaven will be made up of such as these". Jesus told us that we are to have child-like faith. Gilbert did not ask God to win the race or fix the outcome but to give him strength in the outcome. When he saw the other cars he did not cry to God, "No fair, they have their father's help". Instead, he went to God in prayer for strength. Perhaps we to spend too much of our prayer time asking God to rig the race, to make us number one, or to remove us from the struggle when we should be seeking His strength to get through the struggle. As we face the uncertainty of the future we are reminded of the old saying, "I don't know what the future holds but I know who holds the future." As we live in tough economic times and in times in which the Christian faith is neglected and rejected let us to turn to the necessary resources God provides for Strength. First of all, turn to God and His Word. Join us for the new sermon series starting in March entitled: Building on Christ in tough times from 1 Peter. Join us for our various Bible studies on Wednesday nights and other nights as well. Secondly, find strength in prayer. We as Christians need each other and we need to together turn to the Lord for the Strength only He can provide. Finally, turn to your family and trusted friends to talk and receive counsel. During these times there is something amazing that talking to a trusted friend or family member can do to help when nothing else will. Many times they see things from a perspective you had never thought of or sometimes it just helps to get things off your chest as you share with them.

Sometimes it may feel like we don't have the sleekest and fastest car out there but when we turn to Christ through God's Word, prayer, and fellowship we find that what we believe is the truth and in the end we will have the ultimate victory. Our job is to turn the ONE who holds the keys to that victory!

May you find strength in Christ

Pastor Ben Wingard

*Story submitted by Rhett Clarke

Birthdays of the Month



MARCH

03/01 Bryan Clarke
 03/01 Cathy Ferguson
 03/01 Martin Moses
 03/02 Melissa Jackson
 03/02 Linda Middlebrook
 03/04 Gene Jones
 03/08 Emily Best
 03/10 Mary Meadows
 03/10 Chris Oates
 03/11 Adam Jenkins
 03/12 Philip Roach
 03/15 Angela Hoose
 03/15 John Jarvis
 03/15 Kayleigh Moses
 03/15 Mallorie Rutherford
 03/16 Hallie Peterson
 03/20 Allison Moses
 03/21 Charles Ferguson
 03/21 Lee Roach
 03/23 Harold Oates
 03/24 Jennifer Sciba

Soldiers On Active Duty
Amanda Brown, Shirley Brown's granddaughter.

Jessie Peterson

Meredith Millar, serving in the Army Reserves.

Additional Ministers this Month...

Date	Children's Church	Nursery
3/1	Rick & Chris Oates	Charlie & Christy Rhyne
3/8	Martin & Allison Moses	Mona & Tommy Davidson, Mae Ferguson
3/15	Carla Clarke & Tammy Peterson	Felix & Michelle Alpizar
3/22	None	Chris & Elizabeth Mills, Kimberly Stowe
3/29	Charlie & Christy Rhyne	Carolyn Champion, Heather Key, Marilyn Brooks

MARCH Lectionary Texts

3/1—1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10;
 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

3/8—2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16; Ps 22:23-31;
 Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38.

3/15—3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Ps 19;
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22.

3/22—4th Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9; Ps 107:1-3,17-22;
 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21.

3/29—5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12;
 Heb 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

HARPS

HARPS are collecting items for families who have been in The Battered Women's Shelter in Gastonia and are able to get work and places to live. These ladies come into the shelter with only their families' clothes. When they are able to leave they have many needs. We will begin collecting items such as towels, sheets, pillows, blankets, etc. A box for these will be in the vestibule or Historical Room (to your right as you enter sanctuary).



Telephone & Email Prayer Chains



Please check the Telephone &/or Email checklists in the vestibule to update the prayer chains for 2009. Please make any corrections or additions as necessary. Contact Ethel Mauney or Mae Ferguson if you have any questions.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



“If you want to know how amazing grace really is, take a good look at the broken world it heals. In this ten-session small group DVD curriculum, award winning author Philip Yancey takes you and your study group for interactive, gut-level encounters with radical, life-changing grace. Includes interviews with Tony Campolo, Patricia Raybon, Ann Spangler, Debbie Morris, Lewis Smedes, and Mel White.”

All ladies are invited to join us for this 10 week study on Thursday evenings at 6:45-8:00 p.m. at Marilyn Brooks home.

Contact Marilyn Brooks if you are interested.



March 1	Proverbs	Family Pt. 2
March 8	Proverbs	Finances Pt. 1
March 15	Proverbs	Finances Pt. 2
March 22	I Peter	Hope in a Hostile World
March 29	I Peter	Hope in an Assured Heaven

Thank You!

Erskine Boyd, and Jean Love would like to thank the Crowders Creek church for the prayers and cards during the grieving of their brother Dean Boyd.

Women's Circles

March 2	Ruth Grier Circle	7:00 p.m.
March 2	Mollie Falls Circle	7:00 p.m.
March 10	*Minnie Alexander Circle	2:00 p.m.

*Minnie Alexander will return to the 1st Tuesday of the Month in April

Membership, Service and Leadership Opportunities:

*If you want to *find out more about this Church*: would like to take a new member's class; have your child take a communicant's class; get involved in the Men's or Women's Ministries please contact the Church office.

*If you would like to *serve on a committee in 2009*: Worship; Christian Education; Missions; Social Concerns; or Bonclarken please call the Church office and we will get you in touch with the appropriate chair person.

*If you would like to *serve in a particular ministry* as a: Youth/children's worker; teacher; greeter; office volunteer; children's church worker; or nursery worker please contact the Church office and we will get you in touch with the appropriate person.

*If you would like to *learn more about your spiritual gifts/abilities* and where you should serve in Christ's Church please contact the office for information on upcoming classes and teaching.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. as we learn about the New Life and Power available through Jesus Christ for this New Year. 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. Call the Church office for more information.



Wednesday Night Schedule
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Bible Study for all Ages



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

Adult Bible Study
Destined for Discipleship

- March 4** "Experiencing God's Presence"
- March 11** "Understanding God's Word—Pt. 1"
- March 18** "Understanding God's Word—Pt. 2"
- March 25** "Freedom in God's Son"

Celebrate Easter!

Jesus is Risen!!!
Children come celebrate
the meaning of
Easter
April 11, 2009
10:30-12:30

Egg Hunt
Crafts and Games
Make a Resurrection

Leadership Meetings

- **Presbytery Meeting** at Coddle Creek ARP Church on March 10th at 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- **Deacon's Meeting** on March 11th at 7:30 p.m.
- **Session Meeting** on March 18th at 7:30 p.m.

HARP'S & MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

- **Men's Fellowship** will meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m. The Ruth Grier Circle will be serving the meal. Bob Grigg is in charge of the program.
- **HARP'S** will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 18th at 11:30 a.m. The program is TBA.

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Please have all announcements in the office by
Wednesday afternoon.