

The Messenger

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February 3, 2009

*Sunday School Teacher
Appreciation Day
February 8, 2009*

*Thank you, teachers, for your faithfulness in the
ministry of teaching God's Word!*

FROM YOUR PASTOR

“And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.” 1 Cor. 2.1-2

The church at Corinth had become a maze of human philosophies and beliefs. When Paul first went to them, it would have been very easy to get caught up in it and for Paul to interject his own thoughts and opinions.

But that wasn't Paul's purpose. His purpose was only to be a witness. And his message was **“proclaiming... the testimony of God.”** As commentary writer, John MacArthur explains- *“A person can only testify to what he himself has seen or heard or experienced. He is not to speculate, guess, or deduce. Paul was a witness only to God's revelation, not his own human understanding or reason or inclinations. God's revelation was everything; human wisdom has nothing.”*

And in their presence, Paul **“determined to know nothing,”** which means that when He came to them, he didn't come with any other knowledge to share **“except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”** Obviously he could have given a lengthy theological dissertation on Christian faith and walk, but that wasn't essential at the moment. Instead, Paul brought the Corinthians to the cross for that is the summation of the life of Christ: His death-our death, our sin-His sin.

This past Sunday morning I began an Easter series- The Cross. In it we will be looking at the theological implications of Jesus' death on the cross. I hope that you will plan to be here every service possible as we are brought to the cross once again.

Scott Miller has stepped down as the Minister of Students. We appreciate the ministry that Scott has had and pray God's blessings on he and Meredith.



HOSPITAL LIST

Hospitalized or surgeries last 3 weeks: Ruth Jackson, Dot Hunnicutt, Hudson Edwards, Allen White, Eddie Johnson, Barry Robbins; Surgery next week: Sybil Brewington

SYMPATHY

We extend Christian love and sympathy to Mike and Shelly Atkins and family at the passing of Mike's brother.

FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Worship **THIS** much: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”

Jeremiah 31:3

Eventually, it will be cute. I was trying to teach our daughter Micah to open her arms up wide as I say, “I love you *this* much.” At the moment, however, when I say it, she pulls her arms in tight like she's hugging herself. Ok, it's still cute, but she doesn't quite yet grasp the purpose of the demonstration.

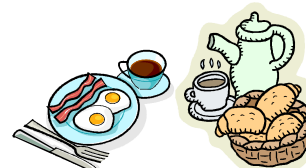
I must be honest, I didn't come up with the “*this* much” motion. I've seen numerous other children demonstrate it to their parents. But I can also think of a much more profound example.

Before time itself, God is love. Now, before you call the grammar police, think about that concept. He is eternal, and He is Love (1 Jn. 4:8). Throughout history, He has showered his abundant loving-kindness on us – climaxing dramatically on a cruel tree, arms outstretched, while shouting “I love you **THIS** much!”

Too often, when our God opens up His massive arms and says that incredible phrase, we pull our arms inward and return only a convenient portion (and that usually on Sundays!). As Micah's arms are to mine, our love may seem quite small compared to God's, but that should never prevent us from offering it all to Him. I love The Message version of the verse above: “I've never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love!” May we respond with arms wide open.

This week we will begin a trial period for a new Wednesday Night Rehearsal Schedule. Choir will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, and Orchestra will be from 8:05 to 9:30 pm. Hopefully, this will allow for greater participation (especially as we welcome Life Group participants to join us after their meetings end at 7:30).

Soli Deo Gloria



MEN'S BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 22, 2009
7:15 A.M.

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR

A huge "THANK YOU" to our teachers!

I personally want to say **thank you** to every teacher in our church. You folks are very special to our pastor and me for your continual dedication and hard work that you do week after week. We want to show our gratitude to you this Sunday as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Day. Our church is thankful to have teachers who know the importance of teaching God's truth, whether it's to our children or our adults. Things I've noticed about you guys....

- You have a heart that deeply cares.
- You share love and concern for others.
- You desire to see "life change" in your class members.
- You have a passion to deliver God's Word.

Remember, every ounce of time, energy, and money you give will be invested in God's stock market - "His Kingdom" with compounded interest. Wow, what a retirement fund. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

Love you in Christ,
Kenny



GUEST SERVICES TEAM

Please sign up to be a part of our Guest Services Team. You would be responsible for helping us on Sunday morning make sure our guests are cared for and welcomed. Different teams will be made up of individuals who love creating an environment that helps make people happy to be at Lake Bowen Baptist Church.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need people to be greeters in the nursery and preschool departments on Sunday morning. Please see Kim Bogan or Michelle Grigg if you would be willing to serve in this area.



CANDIDATES FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Coming by Transfer of Letter:

DeAnne Williams, 2399 Big Mulberry Trce., Campobello, SC 29322. Welcome also to her children Savannah and Cole.

Stan Tillotson, 932 Still Spring Run, Inman, SC 29349

THANK YOU

The thank you cards are on the office bulletin board just inside the work room. We have received cards from the following: Mike and Shelly Atkins and Family



Open Gym for Basketball
Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Senior High and up are invited

COOKBOOKS

We still have cookbooks to sell. They are now \$10.00 each. All the proceeds go to the Youth Ministry.



PRAYER SUPPORT NEEDED FOR A STUDENT MISSIONARY

Please go by the table in the atrium and sign up to pray for and encourage one of our students in the commitment they have made to be a missionary in their community. Please pray about this opportunity to radically change the world for the cause of the cross.



FROM YOUR PRAYER TEAM

Many times we are faced with situations beyond our control. The situation may even seem hopeless from our perspective. Thankfully as Christians, we don't have to face these times without God's provision and mercy. Prayer is the way to tap into the resources we need to deal with difficult circumstances. Read Psalms 141: 1-2 "O LORD, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! May my prayer be counted as incense before You; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering." Let's cry out to God like David did in this Psalm for help and guidance.

Your prayer team here at Lake Bowen Baptist Church is ready to pray with you anytime. We would like to pray for you in difficult times and join with you in praise as you see God working. When you call the church office and leave your prayer request, very quickly team members are notified and begin praying.



NURSERY WORKERS

- Sunday Evening, February 8: Dicky, Debbie, & Jessica Goodman, Becky Lovin
- Wednesday, February 11: Nina Brown
- Sunday Evening, February 15: Jeff & Jennifer Varner, Allen & Amy Merrill
- Wednesday, February 18: Amy Merrill



**COUNTING COMMITTEE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

Bill & Cheryl Price, Ron & Becky Stikeleather, Cathy Black, Kellie Price

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Richard Gowan, Kenny & Frances Bass, Vickie Smith, Lewis & Martha Rosman

A LOOK AT SUNDAY

	Jan. 25	Feb. 1
Sunday School:	578	562
Tithes/Offerings:	\$17,391.00	\$20,160.00
Total Building Fund:	\$144,345.53	

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