

# god's good News GAZETTE

July 2009

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*Wednesday, July 22, is All Faiths Night* at

the Williamsport Crosscutters game. We will get a group together for a picnic at the Memorial Park Pavilion at 5:30 p.m. Hotdogs, buns, condiments, drink and tableware will be provided; everyone bring a dish to share.



After the meal, we will all attend the Crosscutters game. The cost is \$2.50 per person. We must have at least 20 people to get it at this rate. The deadline to sign up is Sunday July 5 because tickets must be purchased two weeks in advance.

There will also be free admission tickets to the Little League Museum for all fans ages 14 and under and free coupons for a hotdog, soda and chips for all children ages 12 and under.

For more information, contact Pam Seitzer at 368-3613 or 777-0908.

## **"America"**

Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist pastor, wrote the hymn *America* in 1831. Smith was studying a tune he had never heard, although he knew the British used it for the hymn *God Save the King*. The British had borrowed the tune from the Germans, who gave it patriotic lyrics.

Smith described what happened as he contemplated the tune: "I instantly felt the impulse to write a patriotic hymn of my own, adapted to the tune. Picking up a scrap of waste paper which lay near me, I wrote at once, probably within half an hour, the hymn *America*, as it is now known everywhere."

Smith's friend and classmate Oliver Wendell Holmes once told him, "Your name and fame will live when I and my works are forgotten."



# Preacher's Ponderings

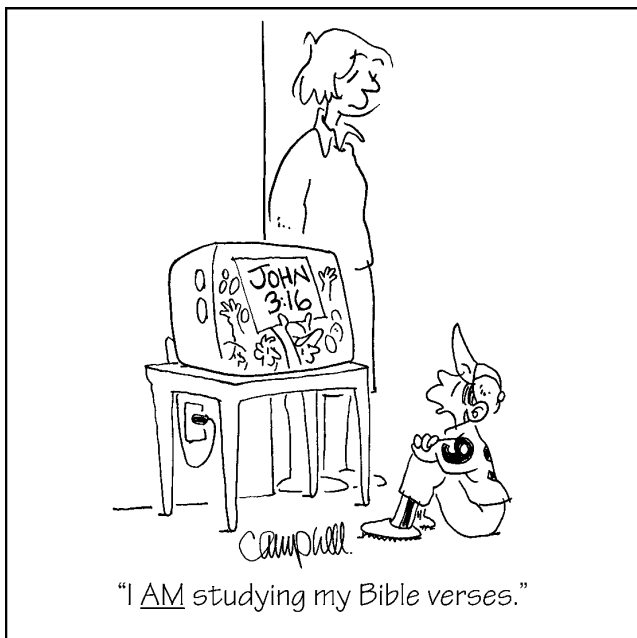
## Have You Shown Your Faith?

There are a lot of people in the world who confess having faith in Christ Jesus. They believe who He is: the anointed Messiah, God who put on flesh. They accept what He did for the world; that he died upon the cross for our sins, was buried in a borrowed tomb, and rose from the grave gaining victory over death. They place their trust on Him as Lord and Savior. Such people express their adoration to him through song and cry out to Him in prayer.

I wonder with such faith as this, why so many chose not to show it? Oh, they relate the many ways that show their faith. (James, "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" would be pleased to hear that people recognized that faith without deeds is dead.) They may visit the elderly, help those who are homeless, assist those who are in need, and provide a meal for the hungry and thirsty. This many 'believers' do - as well as many unbelievers. I understand that motives are not the same, but any person can take such benevolent action, whether they believe in Jesus or not.

Yet there is one thing that Paul speaks of that shows a person's faith which a non-believer would not participate in. Unfortunately, there are many professing "believers" who have not been willing to show their faith in this action as well. What is this action that Paul speaks of that can show our faith? It

*(Continued on page 5)*



# FCC Leadership

## Elders

Mike Bower  
Dick Moon  
Joe Myers  
Mike Pantano  
Pat Quick

## Ministry Leaders

### Activities

Pam Seitzer

### Aesthetics

Louise Courtney

### Baptismal

John Mallory

### Building

George Wolfe & Ralph Eiswerth

### Children's

Kim Nichols

### Christian Education

Wanda Bower & Sue Myers

### Communion

Vaudeen Seely

### Encouragement

Dana & Marcy Hartzel

### Greeters

Deb Rowles

### Grounds

Jay Bennett

### Jr. Worship

Kim Nichols

## Men's Group

Jeff Ward

## Missions

## Outreach

Dan Nichols

## Prayer

Mike Rowles

## Publicity

Wanda Bower

## Seniors

Dave Seitzer

## Shut-Ins

Sheila Quick

## Ushers

Jay Bennett & Ralph Eiswerth

## VBS

Kim Nichols

## Women's Circle

Deb Rowles

## Young Adult

Tim & Melanie Brownsberger

## Youth Group

Dan Nichols

## Staff

Dan Nichols, Preacher  
Cindy Thomas, Secretary

**Information** for the next issue of God's Good News Gazette is due no later than the 15th of the preceding month.

**Have you noticed** an error or an omission? Do you have a suggestion, idea or complaint? Let Wanda Bower know at [bower1263@gmail.com](mailto:bower1263@gmail.com)

## First Christian Church

5329 Lycoming Mall Drive  
Montoursville, PA 17754  
(570)368-3101 – (570)368-8376 (fax)  
[montourfcc@chilitech.net](mailto:montourfcc@chilitech.net)

**Wanda Bower, Editor**

# YOUNG ADULTS

## Studying the Bible continues

The Young Adults will meet for their Bible study July 21 and August 18, both at 7 p.m. at the church building.

### Picnicking at Lime Bluff Park

They will also hold a picnic at Lime Bluff Park in Hughesville, weather permitting, on August 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Any person between the ages of 20 and 30-something is invited to participate in all Young Adult events.

## Women's Friendship Circle

### Thanks!

A big thank you to the WFC, Jodi Woods, and Cindy Thomas for organizing the Men's Appreciation Agape Dinner. We all had a good time, and Joe Myers and his team of all girls ROCK!

### Contagious Joy

July 26th will be the next Bible study; we should be on chapter 6 in the study book, *Contagious Joy*.

# MISSIONS MINISTRY

## Continue to provide for Food Pantry

The Keith and Betsy Smith have been travelling a lot more to deliver the donated food to the United Churches Food Pantry because of your generosity.

### Current Needs

Recently the Food Pantry requested the following items: Canned fruit, canned vegetables, saltine crackers, tuna, coffee & tea bags, oatmeal, mac-n-cheese, powdered drink mixes (Kool-aid and lemonade), chunky soups, ketchup, mustard, oodles of noodles, bagged cereal, and pasta. Keep your eyes open for store specials on these products.

Thank you for your help in collecting this food.



## A memo for Ministry Leaders

Thank you to you ministry leaders for your willingness to use your talents and time for the strengthening of the church in our service to the Lord.

As you took on these ministries, we looked at ten qualities that one must always remember to help you enhance your role as leader of your ministry. (This list is from David and Warren Wiersbe's book *Making Sense of the Ministry*.)

They are as follows:

- The foundation of ministry is character
- The nature of ministry is service
- The motive of ministry is love
- The measure of ministry is sacrifice
- The authority of ministry is submission
- The purpose of ministry is the glory of God
- The tools of ministry are the Word of God and prayer
- The privilege of ministry is growth
- The power of ministry is the Holy Spirit
- The model of ministry is Jesus

Starting with the next issue of the *Gazette*, we will take a closer look at a different quality each month.

(By the way, even if you are not a ministry leader, you are invited to get a boost of Vitamin M – for ministry, which all Christians are called to do.)

*When we are troubled with temptation and evil thoughts, then we see clearly the great need we have of God, since without him we can do nothing good. No one is so good that he is immune to temptation; we will never be entirely free of it.*

—Thomas à Kempis

## Get the *Gazette* by e-mail

Now you can receive the monthly edition of *God's Good News Gazette* by e-mail rather than postal mail. Get it sooner, and save the church some money.

Send an e-mail to Wanda Bower at [bower1263@gmail.com](mailto:bower1263@gmail.com) and let her know you want to subscribe to the e-newsletter.



## Five steps to a friendlier church

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Invite newcomers to a worship service or to a church event and introduce them to other members.
5. Encourage people to participate in those church activities that interest them.



## Have you seen our website?

It's a work in progress, it's true, but still worth looking into—especially if you're a ministry leader.

Start thinking now about how you can use the website to reach those in and outside our congregation.

Don't think you know anything about websites and what to put on them? Don't worry about it—it's not as hard as you may think. And, we'll teach you what you need to know.,

If you have an event you would like listed on our website calendar, send details to the email address above or contact Rachel.

If you have pictures to submit – even better! Send unmodified JPEG photos to Rachel at the address above. Please be sure that you have permission from any and all persons represented in your photos before sending. If there are children in your photos, please get parental approval before sending.

You can check out our website at [www.fccmontour.com](http://www.fccmontour.com).



## Sylvan Hills 2009 Schedule

### 2009 Sylvan Hills Camp Schedule:

- Intermediate: July 19 - 24 (Kids entering grades 6 and 7)
- Juniors: July 12 - 17 (Kids entering grades 4 and 5)
- Junior High: June 21 - 26 (Kids entering grades 8 and 9)
- Beginners: July 26 -28 (Kids entering grades 2 and 3)
- Music and Drama: July 30 - August 2 (Kids entering grades 10 through 12 and 2009 graduates)
- New Purpose Retreat: July 5 - 11 (All ages; physically/mentally challenged children)



DO NOT USE YOUR  
**FREEDOM**  
AS A COVER-UP  
FOR EVIL; LIVE AS  
SERVANTS OF GOD.

1 Peter 2:16, NIV



Rachel Ford	7/5
Cathy Hamilton	7/5
Avery Puderbach	7/8
Jodi Woods	7/14
George Wolfe, III	7/20
Benjamin Nichols	7/27
Keith Smith	7/27
Anna McKeague	7/28



Is your birthday missing from the list? Contact the office so we can correct our records.

## Preacher's Ponderings

*(Continued from page 2)*

is found in Colossians 2:12: "having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."

One's faith is seen when they rise from the watery grave of baptism. This is a unique way in which true believers can show their faith. This is the first action that is taken that really indicates their trust in Jesus. (Of course, we see that showing our faith is not the only action that is taking place at one's immersion; forgiveness of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit also takes place. But when a person is baptized their faith is expressed as they rise forth from the water looking with hope to the final resurrection.)

Have you shown your faith? Do you know someone who claims to have faith, but has yet to express it as Paul indicates? Why not encourage them to truly show their faith in the unique avenue of baptism?

*Until Jesus returns again,  
Dan*

## Importance of the unimportant

The greatest forces in the universe are never spectacular. Summer showers are more effective than hurricanes, but they get no publicity.

The world would soon die without the fidelity, loyalty and consecration of those whose names are unsung.

Any life, however humble, may take its place in the building of a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow.

It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the seemingly important and to underestimate the importance of the seemingly unimportant.

## SERVING THE LORD THIS MONTH

### Ushers

Jay Bennett  
Charles Bower  
Rich Day  
Bill Lewis  
George Wolfe, Jr.

### Greeters/Floaters

Greg & Stephanie Harris  
Deb & Mike Rowles

### Nursery Attendants

#### Bible School

July 5 Deanna Bitler  
July 12 Liz Ward  
July 19 Melanie Brownsberger  
July 26 Debbie Montgomery

#### Worship

July 5 Deanna Bitler  
July 12 Liz Ward  
July 19 Eva Bower  
July 26 Debbie Montgomery



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!



**First Christian Church**  
**5329 Lycoming Mall Drive**  
**Montoursville, PA 17754**

## **A parent's prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my child to lie or steal. And guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that honesty produces happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the meanness in me. And when I'm out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue.

May I ever be mindful that my children are children, and I should not expect of them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and to make decisions. Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children.

Amen.

Devote yourselves to prayer,  
being watchful and thankful.

Colossians 4:2



BE KIND to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

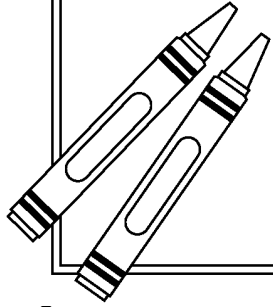
Ephesians 4:32



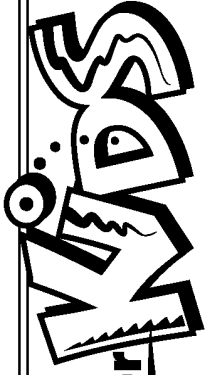
THEN they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.

Isaiah 2:4

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am	6 Office Closed	7 Men's Ministry Study, 7 pm	8	9	10	11
12 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am	13	14 Elders' Meeting, 7 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am	20	21 Young Adult Minis- try, 7 pm	22 All Faiths Night at the Ballpark, 5:30 pm	23	24	25
26 Bible School, 9am Worship, 10:15am Women's Friend-	27	28	29	30	31	



Just for



## TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.)

**NAMES**  
 Paul    Moses    Joseph    The Israelites    Abram    crowds  
 Samaritan    Jesus    Naaman    Angel of God

**VERSES**

“The \_\_\_\_\_ front of Israel’s army ....” Exodus 14:19

“And \_\_\_\_\_ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After \_\_\_\_\_ had traveled some distance ....” 2 Kings 5:19

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“\_\_\_\_\_ proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

“Large \_\_\_\_\_ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“\_\_\_\_\_ traveled along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“\_\_\_\_\_ they traveled in the desert ....” Exodus 15:22

“But a \_\_\_\_\_, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; The Israelites; Moses; Samaritan

• S U M M E R •  
**TRAVEL BINGO**

Summer travel is fun, but sometimes getting to the destination can take a long time. Try this homemade bingo game to entertain you and your family while you vacation this summer.

**What you need:**

- Sheets of 8 1/2" x 11" paper (one for each player)
- Stickers (16 for each player)
- Pencil, pen, marker or crayon

**What you do:**

1. Before your trip, list different things you might see as you travel.
2. Take each 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and fold it in half, from top to bottom. Fold it in half again from top to bottom. Then fold it in half from side to side and then again. Unfold the paper and you should have 16 equal-sized squares, four across horizontally and four down vertically.
3. Family members write one thing from the list in each of the 16 squares. They can place them in any order. For non-readers, someone can draw pictures in each square.
4. Put the sheets and stickers in the car in an easy-to-reach place.
5. While traveling, when you see an object that’s on your card, say it out loud. Put a sticker in that square.
6. The first person to get four in a row wins the first round. The first person to fill two rows wins the second round. The first person to fill the entire sheet wins the game.

# Bible Quiz

A follower of Jesus traveled the world, spreading the Good News of Christ. While in Athens, Greece, he saw an altar with an inscription that read “To an unknown god.” Who was the follower?

- A. Mark                    B. Peter  
 C. Paul                    D. Luke

## TO AN UNKNOWN GOD

- The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us
- The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.
- We don't change the message, the message changes us.
- You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.
- The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:  
 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given
- Answer: See Acts 17:23-26,