We welcome April this week with the continual unfolding of spring, the promise of “April showers”, and the resulting expectation of “May flowers” to follow. Each day begins with wonderful possibilities and concludes with reflection on how those possibilities came to fruition, or not, before giving way to dreams of yet another day filled with opportunity. Such is the gift given to us by God because of the work of His Spirit in raising Jesus from the dead on the morning of the third day. Because of the resurrection, we can live every day as that third day. Hallelujah, indeed!!

April offers special opportunities through the ministry of our church as well as the regular expressions of congregational life in small group activities and gathered worship times. I want to call your attention to the information found in Mark’s article about musical guests on April 10 as well as the musical by our choir and orchestra on the evening of April 24. We are also hosting the last of a series of four associational renewal services on the evening of April 28. I trust you will pray for all of these and support as many as you can by your presence. April 17 is our regularly scheduled quarterly business meeting that will include our normal reports, the election of messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis in June and other important business items. And before we know it, May will have arrived and summer will just be around the corner. Time flies by!

Please continue to pray for our Children’s Minister Search Committee. They have been working diligently for several weeks, committing many hours to prayer and regular meetings.

The availability of fresh coffee each Sunday morning is one of those provisions that is easy to take for granted. It is also one of the most utilized “gifts” by many of us. Randy Pemberton has been the lead guy for some time now in getting the coffee made and distributed to the various locations, as well as seeing that water bottles are available. This is a huge task and Randy needs some assistance. The one who has been offering assistance has had to step aside for a time. If you are open to being a part of a team that will join Randy in this ministry, please contact the church office. We will put you in touch with him for details and training.

Finally, we remain around $15,000 short of our goal for the North American Mission Offering. I look forward to rejoicing with you when we reach our $50,000 goal to fully fund our partnerships for the coming year.

Ron Madison  (ron.madison@mzbc.net)
If your family is anything like mine the seasonal change is now in full gear. In my house of three sons that means we have changed gear from basketball shoes to soccer cleats, baseball gloves and helmets. It would, of course, be simpler if they played just one sport, but then we wouldn’t have nearly as much fun playing taxi :)!

In all honesty Laurie and I realize it takes a great deal of time and energy to get people where they need to be with the right amount of gear and a good attitude, but we also know that it isn’t enough to simply “get things done.” We try hard to enjoy the minutes of our lives and fill them with purpose and urgency. We know full well how crazy the minutes may be where we are juggling schedules, coaching t-ball and chasing a 2 yr old, but we also know these are the only minutes we get.

I was reminded of this lesson last night as I tucked Caleb, our youngest son into his “big boy bed” for the first time. We rocked in the rocking chair, read some of his favorite books and then we sang songs. Caleb wasn’t really feeling like going to bed, so I think we sang every song his little 2 year old heart knew. Many, many, minutes later he turned off his light and climbed into bed. As I shut his door and walked past the room his brothers (now 10 and 6) I couldn’t help but to think back to those same precious moments with them.

No matter what stage of life we are in, we are called to live in the moments. Not looking forward too much, not looking behind too much - just living where we are with all that we have and are. I hope your spring is full of beautiful moments from the Lord and that you live each one to the fullest!

Rob Hatfield (rob.hatfield@mzbc.net)

Deacons On Call

April 3 Bruce Bialoskurski 256.417.7651
Dean Polk & John Roberts

April 10 Jason Blaxton 256.656.3979
Russell Hastings & Bob Russell

April 17 Robbie Burrough 256.337.1364
Glen Sanders & Greg Segraves

April 24 Jeff Chandler 256.527.8484

Missions & Outreach

What a mighty God we serve! This past weekend was an opportunity for God to "show out" and He did.

I’ve heard from the people here that the Eggstravaganza was a huge success. Many people came and participated. Yesterday, I heard how great the Good Friday Service was and how the Lord was really present there. The Eggsplosion with Life Spring Church in Columbus was a huge success with around 350 to 400 children in attendance. Statistically, we gave out around 135 pounds of candy. Life Spring had nearly 50% of its members present to talk with all those who came. The children picked up nearly 3500 Easter eggs. It was a great time for everyone.

Yesterday, I want to thank everyone who parked at the school. We had 165 vehicles parked there. This really helped free up our parking at the church so that guests could feel welcomed as they came. By the way, the next time you ride one of our buses, take time to thank the drivers for their service.

Wasn’t the Easter Service terrific? If you missed it, you need to check it out online. Both the Contemporary and Blended services were truly God led.

The Mission team to South Asia arrived home yesterday afternoon. All were tired, but excited to be back home. It was a pretty quiet ride home from Nashville International, but the few stories I did hear were fantastic as they shared how God was working in the country.

What’s coming missionally? Serving the city as One will be on April 9. We have opportunities for everyone to serve as individuals and families. Go to our website to register. There is also an opportunity to go to Blue Mountain, Mississippi on April 21 - 23. This is a pre-May trip to get things ready for the large trip at the end of May. Register online if you would like to go. The ideal team size is 6.

Be aware of your walk and bring someone alongside you as you walk with Jesus daily.

David Cochran (david.coehran@mzbc.net)
Terry Slay

An enemy I had, whose face I strove to know,
For he had dogged my steps unseen, wherever I did go.
My plans he balked, my aims he foiled, he blocked my onward way.
When for some lofty goal I worked, he grimly said, “No way.”
One night I seized him and held him fast, from him the veil did draw,
I looked upon his face at last, and lo… myself I saw.

We are foolish when we want to conquer the world. When we are wise, we want to conquer ourselves. I have spent the greater part of my life working on self-discipline. I definitely have miles to go. One of my favorite verses is Mark 12:30, And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart (emotionally) and with all your soul (spiritually) and with all your mind (mentally) and with all your strength (physically). This one verse encompasses every area of my life. These four areas cannot be separated; they make up who I am. This passage lets me know what is expected of me as I relate to God. God reminds me that in every part of my life I must practice self-discipline and godliness.

The Greek word for self-control comes from a root word meaning, “to grip” or “take hold of.” A true leader is able to “get a grip” and “take hold” of areas that will bring them success. The greatest asset in a leader’s life is to understand that it is their own personal responsibility to control themselves, to operate their life with self-discipline. That control is best accomplished by surrendering their life to God, the Creator, who made them and knows them inside and out.

I want to challenge you to spend some time in prayer asking the Lord what He would like to develop in you. It is those daily spiritual disciplines that help us all grow in godliness and prepare to serve the Lord.

Terry Slay (terry.slay@mzbc.net)
**Service Times**

**Sundays**
8:30 am  Sunday School (1st hour)
9:45 am  Worship & Sunday School (2nd hour)
9:45 am  Contemporary Worship
11:00 am  Worship
11:00 am  Contemporary Worship
3:45 pm  Outreach/Inreach Visitation
4:00 pm  Crosswinds Rehearsal
4:30 pm  Awana
5:00 pm  Adult & Student ZGroups
6:00 pm  Evening Worship

**Wednesdays**
5:00 pm  Wednesday Night Supper
5:45 pm  Preschool & Children’s Graded Choirs
6:00 pm  Prayer Meeting
6:00 pm  ZGroups
6:15 pm  Greenhouse
6:40 pm  Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal
6:45 pm  Children’s Mission Organizations

**April Supper Menus**

- **April 6**  Pork Stuffed Baked Potato & Dessert or Salad Bar  
  Kid’s Meal: Hotdog
- **April 13**  Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Bread & Dessert or Salad Bar  
  Kid’s Meal: Hotdog
- **April 20**  Chicken Tenders, Potato Casserole, Salad & Dessert or Salad Bar  
  Kid’s Meal: Chicken Nuggets
- **April 27**  Cheeseburger, Chips, Baked Beans & Dessert  
  Kid’s Meal: Hamburger

**Attendance**

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**Welcome New Members**

- Nolan Drummond  (B-30)
- John, Brandi, Andrew & Caleb Handley  (L-52 & 53)
- Nichole Hornbuckle  (S-12)
- Andy, Heather, Katie, Michael, Alex & Loren Evitts  (L-54, 55, 56, 57, 58 & 59)
- Bill & Patsy Edwards  (L-60 & 61)

**Volunteers Needed!**

We are still in need of people to volunteer to serve in extended session during worship in both the 9:45 and 11:00 services. Please contact Brooke Lawson to be put on the 9 week rotation.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Christian Crafters**  Friday, April 1 & 22 from 8am to 2:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Monday Night Men**  Monday, April 4 @ 6pm in the CMC. Cost: $5
- **WorldCrafts Spring Sale**  Wednesday April 6 in the Commons Area.
- **Serve The City As One**  Saturday, April 9 @ 8am in the CMC Lobby.
- **WMU Ladies’ Celebration**  Sunday, April 10 from 2pm to 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Essential Church Baptism**  Thursday, April 14 at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary.
- **G.A. Lock-In**  Friday, April 15 from 6pm to 7am in the CMC. For girls 1st through 6th grades.
- **Quarterly Business Meeting**  Sunday, April 17 @ 6pm
- **All The Power You Need - Spring Musical**  Sunday, April 24 @ 6pm
- **SonShine Luncheon**  Thursday, April 28 @ 10:30am in the CMC
- **Madison County Associational Revival**  Thursday, April 28 @ 6:30pm
- **R.A. Camp Out**  April 29 & 30 from 6pm to 10am