

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following couples on their anniversaries:

Elmer & Betsy Hodges – April 8<sup>th</sup>  
Brandon & Courtney Croom – April 19<sup>th</sup>

## ANGEL FOOD

Ordering information for the Angel Food program - The order deadline for Topsail Baptist Church is April 7<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for Manhollow Missionary Baptist Church is April 9<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for Isle of Topsail Church is April 10<sup>th</sup>. Isle of Topsail has moved and is now located at 110 North New River Drive in Surf City (behind Wings and Dairy Queen). April's menu is posted on the bulletin board located in the Sunday School hallway. Please note that you can place your order on-line & pay with a debit or credit card. Also, the Angel Food program accepts food stamps.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- ✓ April 7<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ✓ April 7<sup>th</sup> – Official Board Meeting
- ✓ April 10<sup>th</sup> – Children's Outing (for those pre-registered)
- ✓ April 11<sup>th</sup> – Baby Shower for Kristen Sniff
- ✓ April 13<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship Cookout
- ✓ April 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ✓ April 16<sup>th</sup> – FCA meeting for middle school students (after school at the middle school – all students welcome)
- ✓ April 18<sup>th</sup> – Lunch & Quarterly Business Meeting
- ✓ April 18<sup>th</sup> – Worship Service at Woodbury
- ✓ April 21<sup>st</sup> – Lunch for Hospice
- ✓ April 21<sup>st</sup> – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ✓ April 24<sup>th</sup> – Relay for Life Survivor Dinner
- ✓ April 25<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Appreciation Lunch
- ✓ April 28<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship to serve supper
- ✓ April 30<sup>th</sup> - FCA meeting for middle school students (after school at the middle school – all students welcome)

## RELAY FOR LIFE



Pender County's Relay for Life will be held May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> on the track at Topsail High School. If you would like to walk in this event, a sign-up sheet can be found on the table in the Sunday School hallway. T-shirts are \$10 (tax deductible). Please give your donation and shirt size to John Waters, Tessie Colvin or Becky Fellows (270-2175).

- ✚ The survivor dinner will be held at Blake's Chapel on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Please see Faye Anderson if you or a loved one is a cancer survivor and you would like to attend this special event.
- ✚ Relay for Life's annual Kid's Walk will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m. If you would like for your child to participate, please fill out a registration form, found on the table in the Sunday School hallway. Registration is \$10.
- ✚ Luminary forms and other Relay for Life information can also be found on the table in the Sunday School hallway.

## BRIGADE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

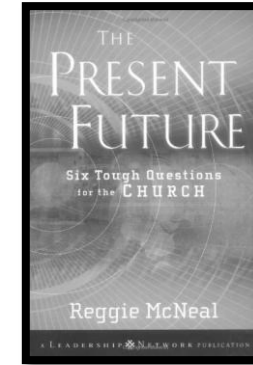
Brigade Boys & Girls Club is now in Hampstead! They are offering an after-school enrichment program, as well as a summer camp program. The Club will meet at Hampstead Baptist Church. Flyers for this program are available in the vestibule.

If you have ideas, suggestions or articles for the next newsletter, please give them to Shannon Sessions.

The next newsletter will be available May 2, 2010

## ECHOES FROM BLAKE'S CHAPEL

APRIL 2010



Periodically I send an email to our college students, below is a copy of part of a recent email:

“His resurrection guarantees all the promises of God will come to pass - promises to those who trust in Him and the consequences of those who do not put their trust in Him. What will it be for you?”

Let me share with you an interesting statistic that I read just the other day. It is taken from a book called, The Present Future. Six Tough Questions of the CHURCH by Reggie McNeal.

“Dawson McAlister, national youth ministry specialist, says that 90 percent of kids active in high school youth groups do not go to church by the time they are sophomores in college. One-third will never return.”

I pray that you will not be one of those statistics.

It is strange that just the opposite happened in my life. The more that I learn, the more it caused me to be in awe of God. The complexities of creation alone cry out with the fact that there has to be a designer. The more that I continue to learn intensifies my desire to want to help people to know God, love God and give their lives to want to serve Him.”

(continued)

Dawson McAlister's observation has profound implications for the future health of the local church. Space prohibits a lengthy statement here, but suffice it to say that the church is the bride of Christ, it is significant, it should be relevant in our lives. But what about you? Is the church just a habit? A routine? A good place to meet nice people? McAlister gives the statistics of college-age church dropouts, but what about adults in general? I have talked to a fair number of older adult church dropouts through the years that seem to have lost sight of what the church is about and to whom it belongs to.

Now it is easy while sitting here in the pews to think – yeah, what's wrong with those dropouts? We could be part of the reason some have dropped out. It's possible that those of us who have "stayed in" have lost our sense of purpose and why we exist.

Are we serving Christ or ourselves? Only you can answer that.

Christ still is the head of the body, the Church. He always has been and always will be. What an honor it is to be a part of it.

### *Pastor Steve*

Rev. Steve Spearing, Pastor  
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Email Prayer Requests to: RequestForPrayer@att.net



**Please continue to pray for our Penny Crusade efforts. Remember – your spare change can make a difference in the Kingdom of God!**

## *GOD'S HOLY WORD*



*by Denise Queen*

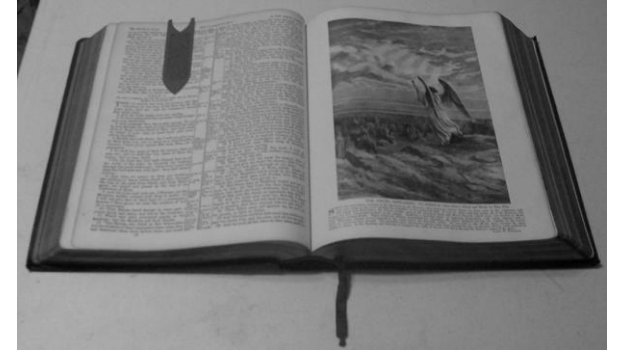
Do you remember when you truly realized that God is real and the Bible is His Word?

That moment for me came Easter weekend when I was eight years old. My father had been painting our house on Friday & we had to spend the night at my grandmother's due to the paint fumes. The call came in early in the morning – our house was on fire. The paperboy had seen the fire and called for help.

The fire was so intense that the firemen had a hard time getting it put out. We were told that we would not have made it out if we had been home. The trauma for a child of seeing all their worldly possessions gone is immense. Our new Easter dresses and shoes were destroyed. All the clothes and toys (the new doll stroller) were gone except for my Tiny Tears doll that I was allowed to take to Grandma's the night before. As a child, your whole world as you know

There was a huge gaping hole in the roof. The hallway back to the bedrooms was gone – there was just a large black hole. In the living room, my mother's piano was a pile of ashes – even the ivory keyboard was melted. Twelve to fourteen

feet away from the piano was the picture window. The drapes & sheers had been burned away. The table in front of the picture window was charred.



The miracle of this disaster was that the Bible sitting on the table under those curtains was untouched. It was not damaged by fire, smoke or water. The plastic bookmark was burned right up to the point that it entered the Bible. The picture above is the Bible and bookmark that survived that fire.

That was the day for me that I knew God was real. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Bible is God's Holy Word. If God could keep his Holy Word safe during that fire, then no one could ever deny it or destroy it.

## *HOMECOMING & REVIVAL*



Homecoming will be held Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is always plenty of good food and fellowship. That evening a cookout will be held for the Youth Fellowship, with Sam Warren as their special guest. Mr. Warren is the Director of Nurture for

the Advent Christian General Conference. He will be our speaker for revival services this year. Revival will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>. Prior to each revival service, there will a pot-luck supper.

