



MAY 2011

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5

You are witnesses of these things. -Luke 24:28

People of Wittenberg:

One of the most interesting phenomena in the life of the church is the arrival of “Low Sunday.” On the heels of the capacity crowd of Easter Sunday, many folks seem to disappear the subsequent Sunday as the lake, beach or mountains beckon us to rest, relax and retool. Interestingly, in many congregations Low Sunday is often followed by “Low” May, June, July and August; programming is curtailed, Sunday school recesses and even the number of worship services is diminished.

Here at Wittenberg, however, the pulse of ministry seems to have a year-round consistency. While enjoying our summer vacations and daily outdoor time, we continue to support the worship, education and outreach programs that define our ministry in Batesburg-Leesville. Thanks be to God!

After appearing to the women at Easter dawn, Jesus goes out to greet others. The gospels describe Jesus’ appearances in Jerusalem, Galilee and on the road that leads to Emmaus. During these post-Easter meetings with the faithful, we find Jesus preparing the disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the subsequent work of the Gospel; Easter marked a beginning of sorts, and not a final destination.

As we move beyond Easter and look ahead to season of Pentecost – the growing season of the church – we still hear the call to be “witnesses of these things.” Take account of your gifts, ponder the good news of Easter and be willing to serve where the Spirit leads us.

Peace be with you.

Michael

SERVING IN APRIL

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 5/1- Mr. & Mrs. Boddie Rinehart
5/8- Mr. & Mrs. Ross Cary
5/15- Arthur & Brenda Howard
5/22- Jason & Kim Feaster
5/29- Mr. & Mrs. Courtney McInnis

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENING

Jerry Price

NURSERY— SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 5/1- Chrissy McNabb
5/8- Paula Miller
5/15- John Oxner
5/22- Kayce Shealy
5/29- Linda Almgren

2-3 YR. OLD SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 5/1- Catherine Oxner,
Myra Cantrell
5/8- Crissie Kirby, Scarlett Summers
5/15- Scarlett Summers, Crissie Kirby
5/22- Chrissy McNabb Susan Shealy
5/29- Myra Cantrell,
Catherine Oxner

GREETERS

Narthex:
James & Bobbie Smith
Commons Area:
Mary Shealy, Barbara Nivens

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Charlie Long

ALTAR GUILD

- Wendy Epting, Dorothy Mullins,
Debbie Sawyer, Myra Cantrell,
Beth Long

USHERS

Eric Dickey, Ray Smith,
Bob Wiley, John Mullins

NURSERY

Jennifer Spradley, Chair

- 5/1- Chrissy & Scott McNabb
5/8- Betsy Shealy, Kayce Shealy
5/15- Erin & Scott Thomas
5/22- Rebecca & Michael Reed
5/29- Scarlett & Matthew Summers

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

- 5/1- Barbie & Dean Rodgers,
Freida Banks
5/8- Toshia Banks, Eric Dickey
5/15- Brandee & Jeff Quarles,
Debbie Sawyer
5/22- Dawn Bedenbaugh, Rhonda &
Tracy Bedenbaugh
5/29- Rebecca & Michael Reed

TELLERS

- 5/1- Torry Dickey, Robert Epting
5/8- Billy Rauton, Rebecca Reed
5/15- Dean Rodgers, Betsy Shealy
5/22- Erin Thomas, Bob Wiley
5/29- Marti Burns, Bill Caughman

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Dawn Bedenbaugh, Advisor

- 5/1- Acolyte: Brett Spradley
AlmsBearer: Tate Feaster
Crucifer: Ross Shealy
- 5/8- Acolyte: Mason McInnis
Alms Bearer: Parker McInnis
Crucifer: Davey Taylor
- 5/15- Acolyte: Matthew Reed
Alms Bearer: Wills Swygert
Crucifer: Brandt Shealy

- 5/22- Acolyte: Adam Almgren
Alms Bearer: Payton Quarles
Crucifer: Avery Finger
- 5/29- Acolyte: Emma Osment
Alms Bearer: River Rauton
Crucifer: Jesse Rauton

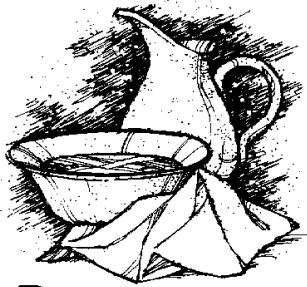
FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

The Wittenberg Food Pantry continues its important ministry to food-insecure families in our community.

The Pantry will serve patrons every Friday and Saturday morning from nine until noon. Enhanced security measures, as well as guidelines for patrons, are under development. We expect our renewed commitment to the pantry, patrons and volunteers to improve the ministry's effectiveness., but we need your help!

Three or four people are needed every Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. No experience necessary. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex or Social Hall. Please help. Thank you!



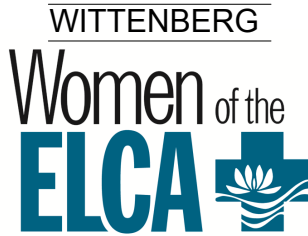


**BAPTIZED
UNTO THE
LORD**

We welcomed
Skyler Guy Frick
son of
Todd & Chancie Frick,
into the body of Christ
through the sacrament of
Holy Baptism
on Easter Sunday,
April 24.

*The Families of
Morgan and Debbie Bank's Reynolds
invite you to celebrate their
25th Anniversary
at a Reception in their honor
Sunday, May 22, 2011
from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
at Wittenberg Lutheran Church
233 North Lee Street
Leesville, S. C.*

No gifts are necessary: Your presence will be enough.



SC WELCA CONVENTION PROJECT

American Red Cross Disaster Comfort Kits

By **Connie Kramer**

The American Red Cross gives Comfort Kits to adults and children who are victims of a disaster such as a house fire, flood, or hurricane. By giving victims the items necessary for personal hygiene, “comfort” is provided to those who have just lost everything. Following is a list of items that the American Red Cross requests to be packed into each gallon-size zip-lock bag Comfort Kit. **Items should be new and unopened.** The toilet-ry items may be travel size or full size. Full size items are preferred.

Adult Comfort Kit

Washcloth
Shampoo
Soap
Deodorant
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Hairbrush/Comb
Razor

Youth Comfort Kit

Washcloth
Shampoo
Soap
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Hairbrush/Comb
Small stuffed animal

Please put the Comfort Kits in the Ladies Lounge or give them to Torry Dickey or Connie Kramer by June 12. Anyone in the church may make these kits. Thanks for your help.

May Circle Meetings:

- ◆ **The Morning Circle** meets at 10 a.m. May 3 to visit shut-ins.
- ◆ **Circle V** meets at 1 p.m. May 3. Hazel Cooper is leader.
- ◆ **Circle IV** meets at 10:30 a.m. May 9 at the church. Linda Almgren is leader. Ann Nichols is hostess.
- ◆ **Circle L** meets at 7 p.m. May 2. Leader and hostess is Marti Burns.
- ◆ **The Hannah Circle:** Adopt-a-Highway pickup.

FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH

The Wittenberg Preschool/Afterschool Care Team hosts the May 1st Sunday Lunch. On the menu: Fried Chicken and Fixin's. Proceeds from lunch benefit the Preschool.



CHRISTIAN CARE

The Christian Care Committee will meet May 10 at 7 p.m.



OPERATION INASMUCH

Operation Inasmuch is a synod-wide community service work day. Pastor Sherman is coordinating a Operation Inasmuch yard-work blitz for Saturday, May 14, from 8 a.m. until noon. If you would like to participate, please sign-up in the unusual places.




KICS OUTING

KICS will have an outing to Camp Kinard on Sunday, May 22, for an afternoon of swimming.



JOY LUNCHEON

Susan Jermstad, Abbey Road Hospice, is presenter May 25 luncheon.



70 Years Young!

Please join us in honoring the
70th Birthdays of
SUSAN GUNTER SHEALY
&
CHARLES WALTER SHEALY

Drop-In
Sunday, May 29th
Wittenberg Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
3p-5p

**No gifts, please.
Given by Paula Miller, Chrissy McNabb, & Missy Hallman.

PARTICIPATE IN PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE EVENTS!

By Dean Rodgers

The Parish Life Committee has sponsored several events this year that have been enjoyed by everyone in attendance. If you haven't joined us yet please try to do so in the upcoming months. Our activities are planned for all ages – so don't miss out on the fun!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21, to join us for a Fish Fry at Jola Lodge, Leesville. We will start gathering at 6 p.m., and supper will be served at 7 p.m. Fried fish will be provided; please bring a covered dish to share. This event is for all ages, so bring your friends, family and fishing poles! Prizes will be given for biggest fish and most fish. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the gathering areas. Please come join us for this evening of fun and fellowship.



The weekend of June 24-26 we will hold a camping retreat at Camp Kinard. If you have a camper or tents please plan to join us for a fun-filled weekend. Sites are limited, so you must sign up on the sign-up sheet to guarantee your spot. The sheets will be placed in the gathering areas soon. If you can't join us for the whole weekend, come join us on Saturday night for dinner and fun. More details about this weekend

will be coming soon.

Please contact Dean Rodgers at 532-1190 or Billy Rauton at 532-6504 with any questions. Hope to see you there!



A sincere expression of gratitude to all our musicians who so faithfully shared time and talents in preparation for the season of Easter.

Choirs, instrumentalists, guest soloists, and visiting musicians came together to present a variety of beautiful music to our worship services.

Thank you for your commitment, your love for the music, and the inspiration I receive from having the honor of working with you.

Rachel

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND VBS

By Torry Dickey

Come join us as PandaMania breaks loose at Wittenberg. Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 12-17 from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. There will be Crazy Crafts, Wild Bible Adventures, Bamboo Blast Games and more! Classes will be provided for children of all ages and adults. Our mission project will be Wittenberg Food Pantry. Please try to have a canned good or nonperishable food item each night to put in our collection box. Make sure you get the entire family out for this exciting week at Wittenberg!



Look for the VBS board in the fellowship hall and grab your registration form. You can also register online at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/wittenberg.

Please contact Torry Dickey or Dawn Bedenbaugh if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

LET'S CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CAMP KINARD!

By Connie Kramer

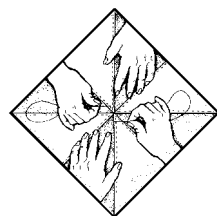
Camp Kinard has recently completed Phase One renovations. To help them provide even better hospitality for those who use the retreat center, they are once again asking us for items that are always needed. If you can provide some of these ongoing needs please put your item(s) in the Ladies Lounge in the Education Building or the room to the right in the Narthex. Be sure to label them for Camp Kinard. We will be collecting these items until June 12. Items needed are:

- White sheets, fitted and flat (full and twin)
- White towels and wash cloths
- White pillow cases
- Laundry detergent
- Pillows
- Mattress pads (full and twin)
- White bath mats
- Shower curtains (solid colors)
- Shower curtain rings
- Coffee mugs (new or used)
- Hand soap
- Tissue boxes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies for kitchen and bathrooms
- Blankets for twin and full sized beds

News from the Dorcas Quilters

By Connie Kramer

Just want to let you know that we sent 22 quilts in March to Lutheran World Relief. We already have at least 10 quilts ready to send, and many more are started. We will send them off again in June. If anyone is interested in helping make these quilts we can always use your help.



Wittenberg Lutheran Church Council Minutes

March 13, 2011

Members Present: Bob Wiley (Pres.), Robert Epting, Bill Caughman, Rebecca Reed, Betsy Shealy, Billy Rauton, Ervin Caughman, Dean Rogers, Torry Dickey, Cher Davis, Marti Burns, Erin Thomas, Pastor Sherman, Furman Cantrell (Sec.), Connie Kramer (Fin. Sec.)

Members Absent: Brent Shealy (Tres.)

The meeting was **called to order** by President Bob Wiley at 7:03 p.m.

Pastor Sherman gave a brief devotion.

The Minutes of the February 2011 Council meeting were approved. M: Bill C.; 2: Robert E.

Pastor Sherman gave his monthly **Pastor's Report**:

The congregation is moving into the Lenten Season.

The Holy week schedule will include:

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil with other churches, Easter Sunday services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

New members will be accepted in May.

The possibility of a sunrise service will be considered. M: Bill C.; 2: Robert E.

Committee Reports:

Social Ministry: Robert E. reported that the Operation Reach Out Meal served 75 persons.

The Highway pick-up project is being done by the youth group.

Evangelism:

Rebecca R. reported that 1st Sunday lunch in April will be sponsored by LMM with funds going to Building fund.

The 1st Sunday lunch in May will be sponsored by the Pre-School Committee, with funds going to PS.

The project to investigate the bus purchase was reviewed extensively. It was noted that Cher D. and Pastor Sherman have done a lot of work on this concept. The possibility of renting a bus for functions was discussed. The costs for this option are rather high when a commercial bus company is involved. Some of the local churches that have buses will be contacted regarding the possibility of WLC renting bus service from some of these churches.

Pastor Sherman stated that a 26-passenger bus will cost approximately \$60,000.00, in addition to insurance and maintenance costs.

This matter will receive additional study and fact finding.

Property committee:

Ervin C. reported that the coat rack in the entry area of the Fellowship hall has been installed. He also reported that an exterior storage building for tables and chairs is being investigated. Bill C. asked that a list for which the cleaning service is responsible be developed and given to the service to ensure compliance with our expectations. Pastor stated that such a list exists as part of the contract.

Pre-School:

Erin T. reported the following:

1. Two candidates for Director have been interviewed, and another resume has been reviewed.
2. The PS Committee (Board) hopes to have a Director selected/hired by the end of April.
3. The PS will have a booth at the Poultry Festival in May. Rebecca R. suggested that this action be communicated to the Congregation before the event.
4. The report was approved. M: Erin T.; 2: Rebecca R.
5. Bob W. stated that Eric plans to open a checking acct. for the PS as soon as possible.

Other Business:

Pastor Sherman stated that some new signs are being developed for Food Pantry. This action was referred to Property Comm. Karen is exploring new signs for inside the building.

Strategic Planning:

Pastor Sherman stated that the Strategic Planning survey had 61 respondents. The summary information will be discussed at the 1st Sunday lunch in April. This was approved. M: Bill C.; 2: Robert E.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Furman Cantrell, Secretary



POULTRY FESTIVAL PARKING
Doris Antley is again offering parking at her home for the Handicapped and Elderly during the Poultry Festival, May 12-14. Her home is at 417 Williamson Street.

Please call 532-5981 to make arrangements.

Support Your Seminary on Auxiliary Sunday

The Auxiliary of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary enhances, supports and strengthens the welfare and progress of the Southern Seminary community, by providing non-budgeted needs through membership. Donations of \$1 to \$99 (sustaining memberships) are most welcome. Life Memberships of \$100 or more are a fitting way to honor or memorialize a loved one. Each life membership is recognized with a certificate of recognition and lapel pin.

May 8 is Auxiliary Sunday at Wittenberg. Bulletin inserts on that day will give details on making a gift to support The Auxiliary.

2010 THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

By **Connie Kramer**

Thank you to all the Thrivent members who designated their Choice Dollars to Wittenberg Lutheran Church. A total of \$1,929 was transferred to our church. Remember this will continue this year, so if you haven't designated your Choice Dollars before, consider designating them to Wittenberg.

APRIL STATISTICS

DATE	SCS	WORSHIP
4/3.....	73	147
4/10	89	147
4/17	80	140
4/24	88	244
YTD Regular Offering.....		\$73,739.57
Needed		88,729.28
Difference		(14,989.53)
YTD B.F. Offering		25,802.00

WITHIN THE WITTENBERG FAMILY

May Birthdays

- 2- Marvin Epting
- 3- Vivian Epting
- 5- Emily Epting,
John Leaphart,
Smith Kirby
- 6- Rob McEwen,
Laura Rikard,
Ellee Quarles,
Kate Shealy
- 10- Grace Epting
- 11- Letha Long
- 12- Samantha Trotter
- 14- Sarah Johnson
- 15- Olga Carter
- 18- Ed Hoover, Sr.
- 19- F.H. Hendrix, III
- 20- Robin Shealy,
Rhonda Bedenbaugh,
Tristen Brown
- 21- Michael Kramer
- 25- Perry Barnes,
Kim Ruff
- 26- Rachel Burns,
Davis Taylor
- 27- Wyman Banks
- 28- Ed Hoover, Jr.,
Carolyn Price
- 30- Sue Ruff,
Payton Quarles
- 31- Susan Shealy

Let Us Pray

MEMBERS:

Marti Burns, Dorothy Curran, Jim Curran, Evetta George, Eleanor and Jane Hare, Ed & Leila Hoover, Bucky Johnson, Dannie Kaiser, The Kirby Family, Ramona Langford, Jeff Long, Brady Nichols, Debbie Reynolds, Ralph Riley (husband of Pat Crickenberger Riley), The Family of Dot Ruff, Sue Ruff, Anne Shealy, Walter Shealy, William K. Shealy, Bobbie Smith, Jennifer Spradley, Wills Swygert, Merlyn Watkins, Eva Watson, Benjy Watson

FAMILY & FRIENDS:

John Bedenbaugh (father of Tracy Bedenbaugh), Judy and Doug Benton, The Mother of Debbie Black, Wyatt Boatwright (Lexington 3 student), Patrick Burns (nephew of Marti Burns), Peggy Buzhardt, Ruby Caughman, The Family of Jane Speaks Cochet, The Family of Taylor Cox, Pastor Mitch Evans, Mike Gunter, Audie Jennings (brother-in-law of Wyman & Freida Banks), David Kneece (cousin of Wyman Banks), Ann Lewis, Thelma Lorick (mother of Larry Lorick), Eileen & Jimmy Mitchell, Mike Nichols (son of Brady & Sue Nichols), The Mother of Landis Price, Tobie & Chester Plunkett (in-laws of Debbie Reynolds), Melanie Sharpe (friend of Sam & Crissie Kirby), Mildred Shealy (mother of Michael Shealy), Kim Smith (daughter of Libby Carswell), The Family of Elsie Speaks, Diane Spradley, Aaron Stewart, Duane Swygert (nephew of Melvin Swygert), The Family of L.G. Whitman, and members of our Armed Forces.