



THE FAMILY

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2011



2 Marty Parker
 4 Christy Sorensen
 12 Jeff Mills
 18 Jim Sanders
 18 Emily Bach
 22 George Damoff
 28 Orin Littlejohn
 28 DeNessel Compton
 29 Jimmy Page
 30 Joe Chastain

Kitchen Clean-up for March
 Jane Littlejohn and Sarah Joe Strong

Fellowship Lunch Hosts and Hostesses April 10, 2011

*Angie Anders
 Jeremy Anders
 **Nancy Strnad
 Mark Patheal

*Chrys Patheal
 *Kim Holland
 Scott Holland

* Please bring one bag of ice. ** Please bring sliced lemons for tea. Each hostess should bring a portion of bread to share. If we have a special function in place of fellowship lunch, the team will be asked to serve in some capacity. Thank you for your help. God Bless. Please call me if you cannot be there. Kim

Financial Update

		YTD
February 2011		
Giving Income	20,105	47,517
Expenses	22,011	46,971
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NET	(1906)	546





From the Music Director

The presentation of "I'm Gonna Sing" is just over a month away, May 4, at 5:45 p.m. All the Joyful Sounds and More children and teachers are working together to bring this praise and worship musical together. Following the presentation, there will be a church-wide picnic for all who attend. Some of the food will be catered, while we will be asking you to help with cookies and brownies. Awards and recognitions for the year will be given at the end of the presentation. We want to visit with and get to know the parents of the Busy Bee Day Care children who come to Joyful Sounds and More each week.

Plan now to join us on Wednesday, May 4, 5:45 p.m. for the presentation of "I'm Gonna Sing". Please pray for the children and teachers as the songs, scripture, and dialogue are brought together, all honoring Jesus Christ. May the Gospel be heard and received by all who hear and participate in this musical.

In His Service,
Sarah Joe



Young at Heart will meet Tuesday, April 26, 10:30, in the Choir Room. More details will be given later.



Children's Ministry

Hello EPC! Things are in full swing for spring in the children's wing! We recently went into the Pine Hills community near the church and spoke with residents there, handing out information packages about our church and talking with people. We established some relationships, met some great kids and parents, and are looking forward to getting to know them better in the weeks ahead. Thanks to all who helped out!

Sundays are exciting! Be sure to get your kids to Sunday school on time so that they can enjoy a weekly buffet style breakfast to start off their time in God's Word. If your children aren't already involved in Sunday school, it's not too late to make the most of the most formative years of their lives. Bring them by at 9:30am for Biblical teaching, discipleship and important relational memories that will strengthen and prepare them for life. Then join an adult class to gain the same for yourself!

Come join us for the Easter Party on April 23rd from 10:00-12:00 here at EPC. There will be an Easter Egg hunt and fun and games for all.

It's VBS Time! Our VBS theme this year will be ***The Armor of God – A Medieval Adventure***. Sounds FUN right? We'll be delving into the Bible to see what "armor" we need to protect ourselves in this world and advance the gospel of Christ. We need LOTS of help to make this happen, so please contact me if you'd like to help. Sign-up sheets will be available in the foyer in coming weeks. Thanks for all that you do!

With you for Christ,
Angie



The Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Church Family,

Throughout April we will continue our sale of the discount cards. We have to meet a minimum sale of 130 cards (\$1,300) to break even and everything above that is profit (and we have over 400 cards). We are currently sitting at 20% of our minimum goal and about 7% of our fundraising goal for our summer conferences and retreats for Junior and Senior High. If you would like to purchase a bunch of cards and then sell them to friends and family that would be great and business owners may want to purchase some to give to customers or clients. If you have *any* questions, do not hesitate to call me or email me.

We have a lot going on in April as far as activities go. We have a College Game Night at my house (the 5th), Youth (and Young Adult) Paintball (the 9th), Young Adult Dinner (the 19th) and a 6th – 8th trip to Six Flags for Christian Youth Weekend (the 23rd). We have regular Sunday and Wednesday night activities as well. Most importantly, April is the month we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The 24th is the *holiest* day of the Christian calendar by far for it is the day we remember and celebrate the triumph of Jesus over all his enemies, especially the devil and Death. The devil is bound up from stopping the spread of the gospel (Revelation 20:1-3) and Jesus is reigning supreme at the right hand of his Father (Acts 7:56). Hallelujah!
Serving a risen Savior,
Ben



Come and join us for our 6th Easter Sunrise Service.

A MORNING TO REMEMBER Near the dawn of the first day of the week, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled the boulder back. But the angel said, "Do not be frightened, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; HE HAS RISEN!!!" (Mt.28:1-6 Amp.) Come and worship with us – Easter Sunday morning (6:30); at the Jones's, 317 Dolores; exciting worship time; delectable breakfast (RSVP for food to bring); enjoyable fellowship with the Trinity and each other; call for the gate #! We will be outside, weather permitting. Come casual and have early worship and breakfast as the sun comes up. You will be home in time to change and go to Sunday School.



My Mom always wanted a daughter. However, in God's providential wisdom, she had three boys instead. Of course she loves all of us, and wouldn't trade us for anything; but now I've witnessed it: there's something extra-special between a mother and daughter. Thankfully, Mom now has granddaughters, and I think that made up for it.

One of the things my Mom would've loved was giving her daughter the gift of a new Easter dress. Easter dresses are wasted on sons! She finally realized her wish when granddaughters came along. More than one Easter Hannah and Sarah received beautiful

Easter dresses as gifts from Grandma. It used to be a tradition common in many homes that, if the means were available, each daughter would receive as an Easter gift a brand new dress to wear to church on Easter Sunday. Do you know what was behind that tradition?

The way I understand the tradition is like this: 2Corinthians 5:17 says, *“If anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.”* Christians are a new creation. Christ’s Resurrection substantiates that truth. A new Easter dress was a symbol of this “new creation”! [By the way, in some homes, the boys received new clothes on Easter, too. But if we did that in our home, I don’t remember it. And this is further evidence that the gift of new clothes – of any kind – might be wasted on sons.]

Most people are accustomed to Christmas gifts. But do you share Easter gifts? As Christ prepared His disciples for His death and resurrection, He told them about some gifts they would soon receive. You could call them Easter gifts because Christ’s resurrection assures them. They are gifts for His disciples throughout the ages. What are some of those gifts? We find at least three in John 14.

Peace. John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* Christ Jesus endured suffering beyond imagination so that we could know a wonderful peace... His peace.

Life. Jesus promised the gift of life. John 14:19b *“Because I live, you also will live.”* This certainly means eternal life as a future hope, but it also includes abundant life now (John 10:10).

The Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17 *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”* The greatest news of the gospel is that we will be with God forever! The presence of the Holy Spirit in us is a present guarantee of the richness and wonder and GLORY we’ll know in the life to come.

2 Corinthians 5:5-9 *He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.*

The ultimate “gift” – the one that makes all the gifts valuable – is God Himself!

Easter gifts. How wonderful they are!
Happy Resurrection Day! Happy Easter!

Grace, mercy, and peace to you all,

Pastor Craig

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