



March 2012

Volume XXVII  
Issue 3

MAIN STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Win the Lost ~ Grow in Jesus Christ ~ Encourage the Discouraged ~ Magnify the Lord

## The Main Street Messenger

# Welcome Spring!

### BISHOP BYTES

#### A Call for Prayer and Biblical Healing

With spring ready to shower its blessings of new life, sunshine, and warmth I eagerly anticipate the homecoming of our friends who will be making the trek back to Indiana. It can be difficult at times to say “goodbye” to friends and loved ones but it is the “goodbyes” that make the “welcome home” so much sweeter. I hope that you, like me, are looking forward to giving hugs and loving on those who have been gone for seemingly so long.

However, knowing that something good is coming does not necessarily make the waiting painless. Just as the early Christians in the book of Acts knew Jesus would “return from heaven in the same way they saw him go” they were still faced with the everyday struggles of life. Intermingled with the joy of anticipating the jubilee of Christ’s return was the pain from broken hearts and wounded spirits. The book of Roman’s reminds us that, “the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we **wait** patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled” Romans 15:3-5. Beginning March 4, our sermon series will be entitled “Finding Biblical Healing in Real Life.” This series will be six weeks long (minus Palm Sunday and Easter) and has been developed to examine how God provides biblical healing and answers to the issues of:

- Losing A Loved One
- A Critical Diagnosis
- Teen Pregnancy
- Homosexuality
- Divorce
- Abortion

There are many individuals in our community, and maybe in our church, who have been directly affected by one or more of these life changing family issues. These issues have the potential to cause confusion, frustration, sadness and anger toward God and others. God does not desire for us to be angry at Him or at one another. God desires for us to be healed and for each of us to be true ministers of healing to those who are struggling with pain and heartache.

For some, these topics might arouse feelings of pain still present from old scars causing them emotional stress. With that said, it is my desire that you join me now in praying for the Holy Spirit to continue preparing the hearts and minds of those who are in need of, and desire, Biblical and Godly healing in each of these areas of real life issues. Please pray for those who might hear about these topics and choose to join us. They may come seeking to find, for the first time, God’s healing hand. Some may come because they have understood they need to let go of the anger that has been built inside of them toward God or maybe toward someone they have not been able to love. Whatever the case may be, pray that all who are seeking real answers to real pain will find them through God’s healing words.

***“Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.” ~ Acts 5:16 (NIV)***



**LADIES SPIRITUAL SPA**  
 Ladies, mark Friday, April 20, on your calendar for this year's Ladies Spiritual Spa. Watch next month's newsletter for more information.

**REMEMBER?**  
 Set Your Clocks Ahead!



**Sunday  
 March 11**

# Family Focus & Bulletin Board

**CARDS RECEIVED**

We would like to thank our church family for the tremendous support through prayers, cards, and charitable memorial gifts following the death of Evelyn Maugans. It was very nice to see so many of you at the calling and the funeral at North Manchester.

In Christian Love.  
 Connie and Jo Ella Maugans

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Thank you! Your kindness is special and so are you!  
 The Russiaville Community  
 Food Pantry

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Invite your friends and neighbors to join you Saturday, March 3, at 8:00am, for wonderful food and great fellowship.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Appreciation Banquet for all Sunday School teachers, Sunday night youth workers and the Pastoral Team will be on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 6:00 P.M. If you are serving in any of these capacities, mark your calendars now so you don't miss it. More details will follow.

See you in Sunday School,  
 Connie and Jo Ella Maugans

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Ladies of all ages are invited to attend our monthly Women's Fellowship on Friday, March 16, at 6:00pm, in the Fellowship Building. A meal will be provided. We will also work on our service project. If you have any questions, call the church office. We hope to see you there!

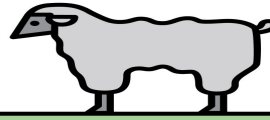
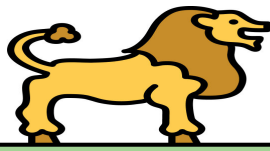
**MOVIE NIGHT**

The God Squad would like to encourage you to invite as many husbands, wives and children that you can to join us on Saturday, March 10 at 6:30pm, in the Fellowship Building for a showing of the movie "Courageous." We look forward to seeing you and your friends there!

**The deadline for all articles and reports is the 15th of every month.**



1	David Merica	8	Hannah Burk	19	Sandy Colwell
	Brett Zadra		Patty Winger		May Etherington
2	Sue Smith		Rick & Chris Young		Paul & Jean Tackett
	Don & Mary Redding	9	Tim Jones	21	Charity Mansfield
3	Phil Irby	10	Duane & Deb Davis	25	Aaron Smith
	Gina Stevens	11	Kirsten Losure	27	Stan & Pam Carter
	Duane & Kelley Carter		Gerald Martin		Gerald & Sandy Martin
5	Grant Heyer	12	Aimee Walden	29	Joyce Mendenhall
	Todd Liscombe	14	Phil & Dixie Hayes	30	Pat Gerhardt
	Nancy Stout	15	Dan & Nancy Wood	31	Nevaeh Wade
		16	Larry Helmberger		
			Chris Young		



# MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 Ladies Aid 12:30pm	2	3 Men's Prayer Breakfast 8am
4 Youth Groups 5pm	5	6	7	8	9	10 Movie Night "Courageous" 6:30pm
11 DST Begins TRAKs Bowling 4:30-6:30pm  Jr./Sr. High Youth Group 5pm	12 Board Meeting 6:30pm	13 S.A.M. Gathering	14 Bus Ministry 9:30am	15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	16 Ten-31 Famine  Women's Fellowship 6pm	17 Ten-31 Famine
18 Youth Groups 5pm	19	20	21	22 S.A.M. Outing "Behold the Lamb"	23	24
25 Youth Groups 5pm	26	27 S.A.M. Table Games Night 6-9pm	28	29	30 Women of Joy	31 Women of Joy

# TRAKS

Teaching & Reaching All Kids

Thank you for sending your child to TRAKS. We have enjoyed having them here. I hope they are having a great time learning about God.

We are again having our Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to help by donating items, see Todd or Becky.

In Him,  
Todd



We have classes for children two years old-fifth grade.

TRAKs (Teaching and Reaching All Kids) is from 5:00-6:30 every Sunday evening. We hope to see you there!

March 4, 18, and 25



**Saturday, April 7th**

**1:00pm**

We will meeting at the fellowship building and end up at Max and Bev Bell's house.

Please sign up your child for this great event.



**March 11th**

**4:30pm-**

**6:30pm**

Preschoolers-5th graders and their families are invited to go bowling with us at Kokomo Sport Bowl. The cost is only \$6 per person. **Sign up not later than March 4th.**

## Coming June 11-15



It is hard to believe that it is time to start thinking about VBS, but it is just around the corner. There are many opportunities for you to help us this summer.

If you like to draw or paint, we have a job for you. If you like to make crafts, we have a job for you. If you like to play games with kids, we have a job for you. If you like to hang out with kids and play a giant game of follow the leader, we have a job for you. But most of all, if you love to share your love for Jesus with the kids in our community, we have a job for you!

Please let Todd or Becky know if you are interested in helping with **Adventures On Promise Island**. It is going to be a fantastic week when kids discover God's amazing love!

### TODD'S TIDBITS

I hope everyone is having a great start to their 2012. I know it has been busy so far and we are now planning for a busy spring and summer. I am excited for the events we have coming up. I would like to highlight one of them.

We are having a progressive dinner that will be a joint venture with the student ministries and the SAM group. I hope all the SAM group will come out and join us for this great event. I know the students will have a great time getting to know all of you better and have a great time fellowshiping with the SAM group. Please keep this event in your prayers as we plan. Pray we have great weather so that we are safe as we travel from one place to the next.

In Christ,  
Todd



**Joint Meal with Jr. and  
Sr. High and the  
SAM Group.**

**Saturday, April 14**

**Sign up by April 1.**

# **NERF WARS**

## **Coming Soon!**

*Get ready to do battle in the*  
**1st ANNUAL MSCC NERF WARS.**

Coming Soon!  
Get ready to do battle in the  
**Watch for more information!**

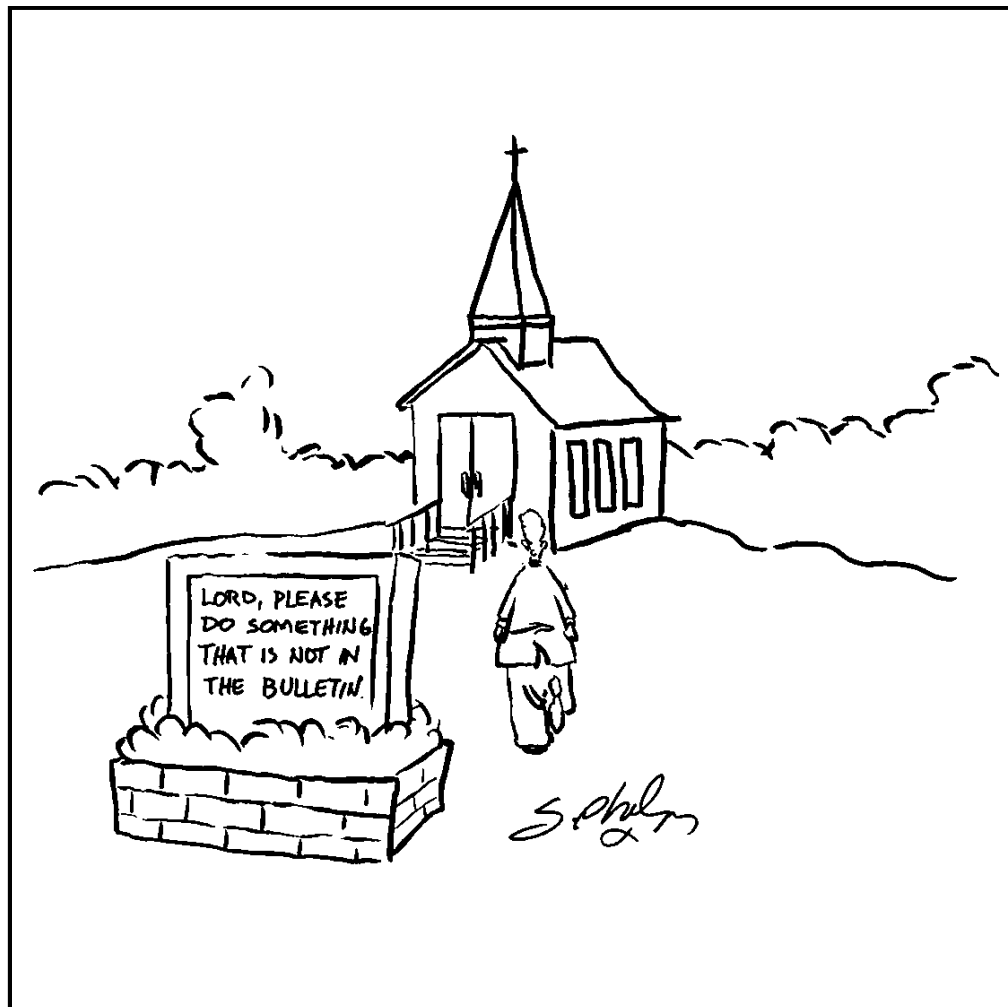
*God has led two lives  
to take one path*

*Taylor Calleen Maxey  
and  
Zacheus Richard Reser*

*Together with their families  
invite you to witness their vows as they begin their joyful  
journey*

*on the twenty fourth of March  
two thousand and twelve  
at one thirty in the afternoon  
Main Street Christian Church  
220 West Main Street  
Russiaville, Indiana*

*Reception immediately following.*





### **EARNED OR NOT??**

When our oldest daughter was in kindergarten, she received a gift that shocked me... She stepped off the school bus the last day before Christmas carrying one dozen red roses in a vase!! She was 6 years old and some boy had given her one dozen red roses... Why would anyone think that was an appropriate gift for a 6 year old?? Our daughter, of course, was not sure what to think about the roses. The roses withered and died. They had no lasting effect as a gift on her. For me, I had a difficult time letting go of my frustration about that type of gift for a 6 year old. Much later we learned the young boy redirected the gift meant for his teacher to a cute girl in his classroom. I wonder if he ever told his mom and if so, what she thought about the gift going to some undeserving classmate.

Perhaps you have examples where you know someone, or maybe even yourself, who received a gift or an award that was not deserved or earned. In our culture many feel that things of value should be 'earned.' This cultural belief is often what prevents people from becoming a Christian. They struggle with their sins and don't feel deserving of God's gift of Grace. Many Christians struggle with freely accepting, without earning, the 'grace' gift.

Luke 15:3-7 Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep where the shepherd leaves the 99 sheep behind to go find the one lost sheep. Verse 7 tells us there will be 'rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent'.

Luke 15: 11–32 This is where Jesus tells the parable story of the prodigal son. The older brother has never left his father and is angry with all the 'grace' extended to the younger brother who returns home. Verse 32 is the earthly father telling his older son that the return of the prodigal son is a time to celebrate and be glad, not angry. . . 'this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Luke 2:40 tells us that as a child, Jesus had the 'grace of God upon him,' The Bible is full of many more examples of God's grace to his people. In the beginning, God's creation of the world and the Garden of Eden showed His grace! Other examples of God's grace are told in the stories of Abraham and Isaac; Joseph and his brothers; Rahab and her family; David and Bathsheba; and the woman at the well.

God's gift of grace is free. We cannot earn it. God sent his Son to earth in human form to shed his blameless blood on the cross for us. He died so that we could have eternal life. This is God's gift of Grace to us. We don't have to earn it! It is a gift waiting for us to accept. Romans 6:14 says, 'For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.'

Accept God's grace and follow him. Rejoice when others accept God's grace! None of us is deserving; not one of us has earned the eternal life gift that comes from God's grace. During this Passover and Easter season, tell others about God's incredible grace!

Pray for our missionaries and the missions we support that through them others may accept God's grace!

Carol Talbert  
Missions Team

For additional reading on God's Grace, try Andy Stanley's book entitled 'The Grace of God'.

# Attendance / Tithing - January/February 2012

	WORSHIP	S.S.	TITHING
DATE	LAST YEAR'S AVERAGE: 142	LAST YEAR'S AVERAGE: 97	WEEKLY BUDGET NEEDS: \$ 4,231.44
January 29, 2012	163	99	\$ 4,456.20
February 5, 2012	145	93	\$ 5,670.00
February 12, 2012	145	104	\$ 3,224.00
February 19, 2012	125	96	\$ 3,908.90
February 26, 2012	n/a	n/a	n/a

**Sunday Morning Worship ~ 9:00am      Sunday School ~ 10:45am**

**Senior Pastor:** Steve Bishop      **Youth/Associate Minister :** Todd Liscombe

**Church Secretary:** Carrie Mills

**Church Office Hours:** Monday - Friday ~ 8:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm

**Church Phone Number:** 883-5265      **Fellowship Building:** 883-7613

**E-Mail Address:** mscc9@sbcglobal.net      **Web Site:** www.mainstreetchristianchurch.com

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Steve Bishop	883-7793	(863) 446-2234
Todd Liscombe	883-5148	419-1287
Alan Anderson	854-0145	438-4824
Wayne Janner	459-8423	860-0941
Connie Murgans	453-4861	459-3941 (work)
Paul O'Blenis	455-6161	432-2052



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