



Crestview

Baptist Church

Our Mission is to Glorify God by Reaching and Developing People
for Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

February 2012

Issue 159

From the Pastor...

Our cry is "300 in 2012"! We are off to a good start. There were 12 decisions in January. Two of which will be baptized February 5. $12 \times 12 = 144$ so we could certainly be running 300 in our morning celebration service by CHRISTmas of this year. God gets all the glory because He is the one doing it as we make ourselves available to Him. (Zechariah 4:6)

The two new Life Groups are doing well at 9:30 a.m. Is your Life Group using the 'Doing Life Together' cards on the first Sunday of the month? This is where you list names of people you know that: do not know Jesus, are out of church, or are unchurched. Is your Life Group praying for specific people to get connected? Is your Life Group having a Superbowl Party? All of these things are designed for Life Groups to grow and then to birth new Life Groups. Remember, "300 in 2012"!

I want to thank everyone who cooperates by filling out the Connection Cards in the morning celebration service. These cards are one of the most effective things we do in ministering to people. First, I pray for every person that turns in a Connection Card personally. Second, many people ask for specific prayer requests. Third, people update their information for our office records. Fourth, people make suggestions that we pray about and implement. Fifth, it helps us identify and connect with guests. Sixth, we email new guests on Monday and then mail them a gas card by Thursday. Seventh, it helps us identify guests that are interested in Crestview. Eighth, the Connection Card makes it easier for one to come share their decision with Pastor Ricky, when the invitation is extended. I write this to encourage you to cooperate with the Lord by filling out your Connection Card and thus encouraging others to fill theirs out. Remember, it's all about God, not about us. "300 in 2012"!

I Love you, Bro. Gene

STUDENT STUFF....

It is hard to believe that it is already February. It feels like we just celebrated Christmas yesterday! With that being said, we march on to a very busy month in the Student Ministry department! First and foremost, we hope that you will join us at the AWANA Grand Prix this year on February 26, 2012 for the second annual Snack Bar for a Mission. All funds raised at this event will go toward the MFUGE Mission trip this year to Glorieta, New Mexico.

The other event that I want to let you know about is that we have a Master Design Dinner Theater coming up in March that will also be helping to fund our trip to New Mexico, so be on the lookout for that coming soon!

Finally, thank you all for the birthday wishes and love this month. I am truly a blessed man with much more than anything that I could ever deserve or want! I love you all!

God Bless, Ricky



**LET US PRAISE HIM!
EASTER PROGRAM**

Attention Choirs members: Past, Present & NEW MEMBERS! Preparations are in the making for our Easter Musical, March 31 and April 1st! We are again partnering with Covenant Church at Sugargrove creating a wonderful team of music and drama. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. to participate in this wonderful ministry! If you cannot make Wednesday practices, contact Jon Hall and he'll work something out for you. jon.hall@att.net

Doesn't the new carpet look beautiful. Johnson's Flooring Center did a wonderful job! Thank you all for your patience and consideration during the transition of removing/installing the new carpet. A very special "Thank You" to Sonja Gaddie for coordinating the moving of the offices, to Ricky and Sam Murray, David Hardman, and Dwight & Sue Black. The offices would still not be together had it not been for their help!



CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

We need clean & gently used clothes for Crestview's CLOTHES CLOSET! Did you know Crestview's Clothes Closet is open to the entire community? Crestview is a part of the Northmont Community Table, a community-wide benevolence team. We have received several families in need of clothing, we especially need children's clothes!
AND....we need VOLUNTEERS to help! If you would like to work in this ministry, please contact Don Davis at 241-3655 or the office.

CBC STATISTICS for JAN. 2012				
Week of...	Bible Study	Sun. A.M.	Sun. P.M.	Budget Receipts
1/1	123	174	No service	8958
1/8	172	181	34	6959
1/15	174	199	No service (carpet)	7690
1/22	166	188	79	6544
1/29	188	219	36	7172
Average budget amount through January: \$7465				
WEEKLY BUDGET GOAL: \$ 8080				



Just for laughs!

PREPARING FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD...

Our church is in the process of preparing for the future. The past is behind us and the present will soon be the past. So, why dwell on it? The past only becomes a lesson for the future. I have to keep reminding myself that this is 2012—not the sixties, seventies, eighties or even the nineties. God knows our future and desires to give us a future with great hope and progress. Looking back at 2011, I realize that God is up to something good. He is bringing to our church His plan for our future work. We are to raise up leaders—for the future. It amazes me how God has already given to Crestview leaders to take our church forward. Many of our people who have been here for years—God has given to you the ability to be leaders in our church. And, He continues to bring leaders to our church family.

We are in the process of making preparation for our future work for Christ at Crestview. This means building our foundation strong. Digging deep roots. Developing a culture of leadership to accomplish the work God has for us to complete.

What about you? Are you ready to serve God? Are you willing to get in on the action God has for us? Go ahead—step out. There will many opportunities presented to you in the next few weeks to get involved in serving and in leadership. But, maybe you are ready now. O.K. When you see pastor, Tina or me on Sunday, corner us. Stop us. Tell us you are ready to be a part of the foundation that is being built.

I read the following article written by Trevor Gore. It's entitled, *Church management tips for today's growing churches*. I thought it was humorous and encouraging for what we are doing at Crestview and I wanted to share it with you.

I like plants. The only plants I've ever lost have been two cacti, one of which committed suicide a few weeks ago. I guess I could have seen it coming. About three months before, it had fallen over, and the only thing keeping it alive was one solid root that hung on as the cactus dangled out over the edge of my table, until one day it jumped.

*But, that's not to say the cactus was sickly and dying. No, it was thriving and growing even as it lay on its side. In fact, **if it had been sickly, it would still be alive today.** It didn't die because it wasn't growing. It died because it was growing so well that it got fat and snapped all of its roots right off. It died because I treated it well and cacti are designed to be abused and neglected.*

The Spiritual Application, and the Hope it Brings

Recently, God showed me a good parallel between that cactus and churches. You see, just like cacti, God designed the Church to exist in hostile areas. The cactus lives on the edge of where life is possible; the church lives on the front lines of the Spiritual War. Both the cactus and the Church thrive in brain-frying heat, like the fires of persecution. Historically, the most efficient way to grow Christianity is to outlaw it.

Both flourish when things basic to life, such as water and hope, aren't around, because both feed themselves from the treasures stored deep inside their heart.

This destiny to live in hostility doesn't make it easier when times are tough, or when there's persecution, but I hope it does help keep you going. After all, as much as it hurts, there is a certain amount of comfort in knowing your church was made for these tough times. It's not like God forgot about you. God didn't accidentally let you wind up here. He knew this would happen before the start of the world, and He custom built churches to handle the pressure. A church in troubled times is a cactus in the desert, a heavily armored tank pelted with rifle bullets, a turtle protected by its shell. Times are tough, but you were designed to overcome.

The other parallel between cacti and the Church is that both have to be strategic in their growth. The cactus lives in sandy soil, so it can easily get so heavy it tips over (as I found out). Similarly, Satan would love to infiltrate the church and make it so happy and content that it becomes a worthless blob of fat that tips over.

That's why both must build strong roots. In fact, I would have much rather seen my cactus puny, healthy, and well rooted, as opposed to big, fat, and laying broken on my floor. God's the same way. He cares more about the roots of your church than its size, because good roots cause a large size, but do it the other way and all you get is death.

*As leaders in the church, we're obsessed with growth. If we don't get a salvation a week, we're not satisfied. If we do, we want ten a week, then a hundred, then a thousand. **This is good.** As long as there are people who don't know Jesus, any Christian who's satisfied with the status-quo needs a serious talking to.*

*But, there is an investment that must be made before that growth can occur. **Often, God slows visible growth, while he works below the soil.***

*So, if your church seems to be stuttering in its growth, remember that God is just working to prepare you. Focus on your roots. **Pray harder. Disciple more leaders,** so they can minister to new believers when they show up.*

Use the time to build roots that go twenty feet underground, and before you know it, you'll have a church that looks like a redwood.

**Are you ready? Corner us this Sunday and get started now!!!
Don Betts**

Crestview Baptist Church
6600 Salem Avenue
Clayton, Ohio 45315



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6600 Salem Avenue, Clayton, Ohio 45315

Caring for People.... Building Relationships...Changing Lives.

Life Groups.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship & Celebration..... 10:45 a.m.
Children's Worship (Gr. 1-4) 10:45 a.m.
Preschool Worship (Ages 4-5) 10:45 a.m.
Master Design.....5:45 p.m.
Evening Worship & Celebration.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Activities

AWANA (registration 6:30 p.m.).....6:45 p.m.
Worship Ministries Team practices..... 6:30-8:15 p.m.
Adult Bible Study6:45 p.m.
Student Bible Study.....6:45 p.m.
Nursery provided for all services

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Gene Burke, (937) 832-3817
Email: gburke@crestview.org

Minister of Students: Rick Murray (937) 546-0505
Email: rmurray@crestview.org

Church office: (937) 854-6300
Email: cbc@crestview.org www.crestview.org

For Prayer Concerns call: Jean Hissong at
(937) 836-7998, (937) 231-1830, or gjean@woh.rr.com.
You may also contact the church office at
(937) 854-6300.

CRESTVIEW'S THEME VERSE

I can do all things through Christ who gives me Strength. Philippians 4:13

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Hansel, Rodger	2/1	Bell, Darlene	2/22
Harris, Willie	2/1	Vanderpool, Larry	2/22
Millard, Jordan	2/1	Middlestetter, Charles K.	2/23
Murray, Ricky	2/1	Camberos, Isabella	2/24
Kindred, Isis	2/2	Jackson, Palmer	2/24
Sweaney, Terra	2/2	Garcia, Abby	2/26
Sexton, Stella	2/4	Quansah, Philip	2/26
Smart, Vivian	2/5	Byers, James	2/28
Phillips, Rose	2/6	Wilson, Don	2/28
Trochelman, Tyler	2/6		
Turner, Dessirae	2/6		
Harrington, Eric	2/7		
Sult, Christian	2/10		
Hardman, David	2/12		
Jones, Elsie	2/12		
Berry, Lee	2/13		
Haag, Rebecca	2/13		
Whitworth, Robbie	2/13		
Leach, Dorothy	2/19		
Saul, James Daniel	2/19		
Arnett, Marvin	2/21		
Oswald, Christopher	2/21		
Smith, Donna Jo	2/21		
Vaughn, Dalma	2/21		