

THE MESSENGER

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March 2010

Our Mission:

“The First Baptist Church of Altamont seeks to glorify God by worshiping together, enjoying the fellowship of one another, providing opportunities for people to grow in Christ, ministering to the needs of all, and reaching people for Christ.”

Pastor’s Paragraphs

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16 HCSB)

With nearly three out of every four people in the United States, Canada and their territories living without a personal relationship with Christ, it's easy to see how urgently people need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Only God is powerful enough to transform the lives of those living in sin or living without hope that is found in eternal salvation. Each person's life can be transformed by the same power that raised Jesus from the grave and offered eternal life to those who would follow Him. But how will people hear the powerful, life changing message of God without someone telling them? How are Southern Baptists sharing God's transforming power with the multitudes of unbelievers?

Our North American missionaries, in partnership with state conventions, associations, and local churches are living out the call God has placed on their lives by moving out of their comfort zones and unashamedly proclaiming the message of salvation with all people they encounter. They are creatively and actively seeking common ground with unbelievers so they can share the powerful message of God which transforms lives from sinful man to redeemed believer.

Together, we can pray for our North American missionaries, give sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and work alongside our Southern Baptist missionaries and do our part to share God's powerful message of forgiveness and the offer of eternal life.

During our March 7-14 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, consider how you can “Live with Urgency” and impact the Kingdom of God through your continued prayers, giving, and going in this urgent task God has called us to carry out. Pray for these missionaries who represent the dedicated work of thousands like them.

In His Service,

Pastor Lowell

LIVE WITH URGENCY
SHARE GOD'S TRANSFORMING POWER

March AM Sermon Series

Pastor Lowell will continue the series, "Christ's Last Words on the Cross." In these messages, we are considering the seven statements our Lord made from the cross. These statements are important to us, not only because of the Person who spoke them but also because of the place where they were spoken. When our Lord Jesus was doing His greatest work on earth, He was uttering some of His greatest words. These words are windows that enable us to look into eternity and see the very heart of God. Pastor Lowell will conclude with a sermon entitled "Evidence for the Resurrection," based on 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

The sermon titles are:

March	7	"I'm Thirsty"
	14	"It Is Finished!"
	21	"Father, Into Your Hands I Entrust My Spirit."
	28	"Evidence For the Resurrection"

Romans 15:13a

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

March PM Sermon Series

In March Pastor Lowell will continue teaching through the Gospel of John. The series theme is "Knowing Jesus."

The sermon titles and references are:

March	7	"How to Be Best Friends with Jesus"	John 15:1-17
	14	"Preparing to Follow Jesus"	John 15:18-16:4
	21	"The Ministry of the Holy Spirit"	John 16:5-15
	28	"How Jesus Helps Us with Our Problems"	John 16:16-33

Evangelism & Missions Mentions

Across North America



God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) will have a special evangelism campaign every other year beginning in 2010 and continuing through the year 2020. The first of these campaigns is called *Across North America*. This evangelism campaign is designed to get the Gospel into every home in North America during the 2010 Easter season. Just imagine the spiritual impact of every Southern Baptist church working together to sow the Gospel all across North America! Participation is easy!

Across North America is four simple steps:

- A targeted three-week media saturation featuring the tag line, "Find it Here" prior to Easter
- Participating churches prayer-walking their communities
- Participating churches saturating their communities with a clear bag containing the "Find it Here" gospel presentation and an invitation to attend an Easter worship service
- Participating churches preparing for visitors on Easter Sunday and follow-up afterwards

Praying	Engaging	Sowing	Harvesting	Assimilating
March 1-19	March 20	March 27	April 4	April 11-May 2
Promotion	Praying Across North America	"Find it Here" Gospel Distribution Door-to-Door www.FinditHere.com	Sunrise Service Easter Musical	Five week follow-up plan
Get Ready	Prayerwalking	Sharing the Gospel	Celebration	Visit, Enroll, Lessons

Please begin praying for this exciting evangelistic campaign and plan to join us for prayer-walking (or driving) on Saturday, March 20th, Gospel distribution on March 27th, and Easter services on April 4th as we seek to win our community for Jesus Christ!

Buckets for Haiti

Information on food items to purchase to send to Haiti for relief supplies is on the foyer table. Teams of 2+ people are encouraged to work together to purchase items for each bucket.

Please see Linda Riley with any questions as she coordinates this mission effort.



March Youth Event

March 19-20 our youth and youth leaders will travel to the First Baptist Church of Hermitage, Missouri for a **Youth Bible Conference**. This year's theme is "Greater Things," based on John 14:12. There will be worship and speakers Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday night. Students will be able to participate in two small group studies relevant to the culture and family situations youth face today. Meals, transportation, and housing are free of charge.

If interested in attending, please see Pastor Lowell as soon as possible.

Worship & Music Team Wonderings

Drama Delights

Our February drama was a hit! Congratulations Patti, Adam, Robin, and Don for a job well done. We won't soon forget the lesson you taught us about holding onto a grudge; nor will we forget watching Adam tumbling across the stage.



We are looking forward and can't wait to present our March drama, "What a Pain!" You will be meeting Joe, a selfish, lazy whiner, who is living his life in constant pain. Just wait till you see what happens to Joe. You won't want to miss this!

Janet and Lowell

Music Notes



This is Wednesday evening and I just got back from choir practice. We had a great rehearsal! In spite of the cold weather we had a good turnout. Thank you, choir members for your dedication to the choir. In the next few Sundays you will be hearing portions of our Easter Cantata, and I know that you will be blessed.

The children who participate in our AWANA program have been busy learning the theme song for their age group as well as the main theme song. I hope to continue to involve those children in the music ministry of our church.

In His service,

Mirta

Money Matters



This month I'd like to pose some questions for thought.

How do you view the money you contribute to the church? Is it a gift to God like people give to an acquaintance or friend on a birthday or other special occasion? Is it a tax on you imposed by God?

Whose money are you handling? Yours entirely to manage as you choose? Do you view yourself as an owner of your money or do you see yourself as a manager of part of God's world including the money over which you have influence?

Are you willing to examine those issues and act upon your conclusions? Will you support Kingdom Causes including your church?

Noel Hyde

Church Stewardship Training Event

On Tuesday, March 23rd from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, our church will host a Christian Security Network webinar entitled, "CASH HANDLING FOR CHURCH COLLECTIONS." Churches rely on offerings to keep the church running, and collecting offerings is a standard part of most worship services. This webinar will give useful tips for handling church offerings before, during, and after the collection. All individuals in our church who are responsible for collecting, counting, and recording church offerings and others involved in our church stewardship process are invited and encouraged to attend.



Snow Removal Crew



efforts are greatly appreciated by all

Church Teams



Our teams are led by the following dedicated individuals:

Fellowship	Ministry	Missions & Evangelism	Worship & Music	Discipleship
Janet Hunsaker & Ethelyn Williams	Robin Heltsley	Linda Riley & Larry Riley	Dr. Mirta Donnelley	Dr. Lowell Donnelley & Paula Putnam

Kid's Cove Corner

A W A N A

Please join us at the church on Sundays for fun evenings of singing, games, storing God's word in our hearts, and so much more!

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Open to age 3 through grade 6.

Come and check us out!

*To those who celebrate its intended meaning, **St. Patrick's Day** is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and offering prayers for missionaries worldwide.*



St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is here, you see.
We'll pick some shamrocks, one, two, three.
We'll count the leaves and look them over,
And maybe find a four-leafed clover.
I'll sew green buttons on my vest,
Green for St. Patrick is the best.
I'll wear a green hat, very high,
And dance a jig--at least I'll try!

1 Peter 2:21 (HCSB)

For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps.



Leprechaun Milkshake

4 cups milk
½ cup or one large pistachio pudding mix package
4 scoops vanilla ice cream
4 drops green food coloring (optional)

Carefully mix all ingredients in blender until nice and creamy.

Enjoy with your family!

Ministry Team Ministrations

NURSERY



If you have a heart for working with the youngest in our church family, please let the office know!

We need a Nursery Coordinator, additional workers & youth helpers.

SHUT-IN MINISTRY

A scriptural brain teaser

1. How many swords did the disciples take with them when they followed Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane?
2. "and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the _____, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness:"
3. Complete the scripture: Then said Jesus, "Father, _____ them; for they do not know what they are doing."
4. What were Jesus' last words on the cross?
5. To whom did Jesus first appear following His resurrection?

These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. John 17:1-3

Our **Shut In Ministry** team continues to contact those folks who, for one reason or another, are unable to worship and fellowship with us. Recent visits included **Doris Larsen, Cleo Allen, Irene Tucker-Riley** and **Vivian Prater**. We were blessed by our visits with these sweet ladies and ask that you remember them in prayer for health needs, comfort and encouragement in this season.

If you know someone in our body in need of encouragement or if you have an interest to serve in this ministry, please contact **Alice Potts (618.483.3126)** or **Nancy Byars (618.483.9826)**.

Answers: 1. two (Luke 22:38-39) 2. cross (1 Peter 2:24) 3. forgive (Luke 23:34) 4. "Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46) 5. Mary Magdalene and another Mary (Matthew 28)

< 2010 Youth Events >

Mar Missouri Youth Conference

Apr Cardinal Game

May Agape Fest

Jun St. Louis Zoo

Jul Holiday World

Aug Boating/Swimming

Sep St. Louis Mills Mall

Oct Hayride/Weiner Roast

Nov Galaxy Bowling

Dec Youth Encounter

Church Administration

Please call....

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, admitted to the hospital, and/or needs pastoral ministry, please call the Pastor, your deacon or any of the other deacons.

Pastor Lowell

483-3250 church
483-5264 home
618/553-5560 cell phone

Kieffer Milam	618/483-6374
Larry Riley	217/868-5751
Art Davidson	618/483-6577
Jim Pritchard	618/483-6810
Ron Hite	618/483-5058
Randy McElroy	618/245-9155

Adult Midweek Programs

We invite you to attend Midweek Programs each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. The first week of each month we have a **Missions Night program**, and the third week we have our monthly **Business Meeting**. The remaining weeks we have **Prayer & Discipleship Training**, so please join us here on Wednesday nights!

Church Library Relocation

New Digs In early March, the church library was relocated to the meeting room just off the multi-purpose room. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the tremendous variety of topics and materials we are fortunate to have. ***Please stop in before morning worship each Sunday to select an item to enrich your life!***

Self-Service Circulation If you see something interesting simply sign it out on the library check out sheet you'll find on the library table. When you return your item, mark it as returned on the same sheet then place it back on the shelf in numeric order.

Christian Fiction You can now find books from popular authors like Oke, Karon, Lewis, Phillips and the Left Behind series in the book case next to the window. Enjoy!

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need, update or praise for the weekly Prayer List, please drop off a note or email it to the office at:
secretary@altamontfirstbaptist.org



Church Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT)

All church leaders are invited and encouraged to attend our CMLT meetings scheduled for 6 pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday ~ March 2nd @ 6:00 pm

Member Minutes

Hospital/Remembrance Flowers

If you have family hospitalizations or passings in March, please contact

Vicki Milam
(618)483-6374 hm

or

Marcia Guffey
(217)536-5727 hm
(217)342-3777 wk



March Birthdays!

- 2 – Curt Sidwell
- 6 – Doris Larson
- 10 – Nicholas Pritchard
- 12 – Nathan Heltsley
- 13 – Kieffer Milam
- 16—Casey Frazier
- 23—Judy Tapp
Hayden Klein
- 24—Gordon Scholl
Linda Riley
- 31—Katelynn Mathis



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Our church family expresses Christian sympathy to:

Jon & Alberta Clymer and Family on the loss of her second cousin,
Cody Krajefska.

Bill & Patti Croy and Family on the loss of his father, Loyd Croy.

NEW MEMBERS

Our church family welcomes new member

Elliott Putnam!

March Anniversaries!

- 23 – Kenny & Connie Tipword
Randy & Angie McElroy
- 25 – Lowell & Mirta Donnelley
- 26—Richard & Caroline Cannon

Joining the Church

You may become a member of our church by:

1. **Profession of Faith & Baptism**—If you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior and follow Him in baptism by immersion.
2. **Promise of Church Letter**—You can transfer your membership from another Southern Baptist Church or a church of like faith and order.
3. **Statement of Faith**—If you have already accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and have been baptized by immersion as a believer in a church of like faith and order.
4. **Baptism**—If you are a Christian but have never been baptized by immersion.

Discipleship Team Doings

Explore the Bible

If you haven't found a Bible study class, you're invited to "Explore the Bible" each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Adult 3 class. This class is a co-ed study for adults of all ages.

Sunday School

We invite you to attend Bible study each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 am. It's a great place to learn, share, and strengthen your commitment to Christ.

Classes are available for all ages!

Women's Bible Study

This ladies group meets every Tuesday at 2:00 pm at the Nancy Powell residence.

Please join the group--this is a wonderful way to grow in the knowledge of God's Word.

March Discipleship Training

Based on one of the most powerful and timely topics of our time and combined with a best-selling Colson book, the **Wide Angle: Framing Your Worldview** series gives people a place to discuss world view. This study features dialogues between Chuck Colson and Rick Warren as they explore such key issues as truth, tolerance, terrorism, reconciliation, and the purpose of life.

Join us for this exciting series at 6:30pm on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays in March.

Fellowship Findings

Thanks to everyone who attended the Valentine's supper. The fellowship team works hard on these meals, and it makes us very happy when they are well attended.

Congratulations to Harry and Caroline for winning "The Newlywed Game", Pastor and Mirta for coming in second, and Bob and Nancy for coming in third. Thanks Greg and Cindy and Brad and Paula for participating. It was so much fun listening to all your answers. The wedding photos were so interesting to see, and it was a hoot trying to guess who was who. The food as usual, was delicious. Our next fellowship event will be the sunrise breakfast on Easter Sunday morning.

....Janet and Ethelyn

Coffee Stop & Children's Sunday School Snacks

Stop by for a fresh cup of coffee on your way to your Sunday School/Bible Study classroom. The coffee will be ready by 8:30am each Sunday morning!

A light breakfast snack is provided for the children in their classrooms.

Member of the Month



This is a special time in the life of my Member of the Month. Since Megan Cristina Donnelley was born on February 4, 1994, she not only just recently became "Sweet Sixteen" but also just got her driver's license – how's that for milestones in your life?

Megan was born in Stillwater, OK to Dr. Lowell and Dr. Mirta Donnelley. She has a brother Lucas who is thirteen months older than she. Her father, Lowell, was working at the Oklahoma State University and also was pastor of the First Baptist Church at Jennings, OK at the time of Megan's birth. Megan's Mom, Mirta, was giving piano lessons at that time.

Megan says she doesn't remember a lot about her preschool years. She does remember that she followed Luke everywhere. She says, "He used me to get the things that he wanted. I was his accomplice at getting into shelves or getting over the baby gate. Since I was so young, I didn't get into trouble – but sometimes Luke did!" When she was a baby, Megan went with her family to Brazil to see Mirta's parents but Megan has no recollection of that trip.

Megan started pre-kindergarten in Stillwater at the Trinity Christian School. "I just remember odd things like finding a turtle on the playground." Megan happened to attend pre-kindergarten at three places. Her parents were planning to move to Hawaii where her Dad was to pastor a church but they discovered that Mirta had cancer. After surgery, Mirta needed 28 radiation treatments. In Hawaii she would have to travel two hours one way to the other side of the island in order to receive those treatments. So the church in Hawaii recommended that the Donnelley's stay in the mainland until those treatments were completed. Since they had already shipped their belongings to Hawaii, the Donnelley's decided to stay with Lowell's Dad and Step-Mom in Vandalia. Mirta had her radiation treatments in Effingham. Megan attended pre-kindergarten there at Vandalia. During the time they were in Vandalia, Grandpa Donnelley became ill and passed away.

When Mirta had sufficiently recovered, the family flew to Hawaii in January of 1999 so Lowell could start his work at the church there. Megan only remembers that she was rather frightened of flying. So she entered pre-kindergarten when they got to Hawaii. This preschool was called Sunshine School and a lady from their Hawaiian church was Megan's teacher. Megan continued attending school in Hawaii through her third grade. Megan says she really had fun when she attended kindergarten and met some new friends. However by the time Megan was in the second grade she was growing taller than most of her friends and felt awkward so school wasn't much fun anymore. Also Megan says she didn't enjoy a "pretending phase" in her life – she always caught on too quickly. Megan says at that time she was a good student and made almost all A's. She had the honor of getting to go to the fourth grade reading class when she was a second grader. The pupils didn't have text books until they were in the third grade. Megan thought having text books was such a "cool" thing, that she carried all her text books home every day even though she didn't have homework to do!

Megan started playing the violin when she was in the second grade. She took lessons from a German lady named Ursula, who taught Megan's violin lessons out of a New Age Therapy Office. Megan's Mother was the teacher of her Music Class at school. One interesting thing the pupils did was to celebrate "May Day" and Mirta was in charge of that special presentation.

Megan said they always chose a person to do the solos – and Megan was always chosen! I asked Megan if she enjoyed Hawaii and she said, "Yes – I think. I stayed inside most of the time and we didn't go to the beach very often. Maybe because of my red hair and fair complexion."

Of course being a pastor's daughter meant that Megan would be in church regularly from her earliest years. It was the year she was five years old and was attending VBS that she became interested in becoming a Christian. The VBS pupils were given a pamphlet one day and Megan took hers home with her and that night she talked to her Mom, went over the pamphlet and accepted Christ as her Savior. Megan was baptized in the ocean along with several other youngsters. In fact, Lowell almost forgot about her because she was floating around in the ocean away from the other kids...After all the new believers were baptized, everybody would sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" as they came out of the water. That was a great experience. Megan says she enjoyed singing in church but after she got so tall, she didn't have very many friends except for one girl, Alena, whose parents were from Colorado. Alena was a special friend and she and Megan did everything together. Megan had been taking piano lessons off and on from Mirta and Alena started taking piano lessons from Mirta also. Megan said that made her jealous!

Because Megan was so lonely and felt like "the odd one out," she was very glad when her parents decided to move back to the mainland where her Dad would become pastor at the First Baptist Church of Altamont. Their family flew first to Brazil (Megan took her violin along) to visit Mirta's parents and to help celebrate Mirta's parents' 50th Wedding Anniversary. Megan had a good time in Brazil and got acquainted with her cousins. She especially liked the Brazilian food, and Megan said she cried when it was time to come back to the States.

When they first returned from Brazil, the Donnelley's stayed a while with Lowell's sister, Charlene, who lived in Altamont and then they moved into an apartment until they could find a house they wanted to buy. Megan met a girl in the next apartment and they became friends. Megan remembers the first day in fourth grade at Altamont Grade School. Megan said the other kids would follow her around on the playground and say, "Speak to me in Brazilian!" Megan said the Altamont teachers seemed different and she had to adjust to the accent of the people in Altamont after hearing the slang that the people spoke in Hawaii. Megan also felt that the teachers were more strict in Hawaii.

At that time Megan was taking piano and violin lessons and had begun playing the bass drum in the school band. She also started playing soccer since Luke was playing soccer. Megan says, "At that time I was doing well in school because I studied and stayed focused on school. However in the sixth grade I got more into sports – basketball and softball as well as soccer. Then, because I injured my back, I had to give up sports in the seventh grade. In the eighth grade I went back into softball, volleyball, cheerleading and soccer and still found time for music. I even went to Eastern IL University to take

piano lessons from a professor there. Then I quit piano because I was so involved in volleyball. However, I realized later that wasn't the wisest choice because I devoted a lot of my life to volleyball and got to play very little in actual volleyball games."

When grade school graduation came, "I felt very adult," Megan says. And Megan started High School. She started out in soccer her freshman year but had to go back to the doctor and was told not to do sports. She also wasn't supposed to participate in the marching band because she played bass drum, but Megan continued with the band. Megan is now a sophomore and it has been a good year. She still is in band and was able to go to music camp and then participate in the All State Youth Choir. So now Megan plays bass drum in band, plays the violin, plays the piano and has taught herself to play the guitar and is learning (also self taught) to play the saxophone – one they borrowed from the McCarron boys – and is considering learning to play the flute next!! Megan said, "When my mother went through a recurrence of cancer and treatments this past year, I sat around a lot and what else was there to do –I played musical instruments!"

Megan has also attended Youth Encounter for the past three years and enjoys it very much. She also enjoys reading, working out with videos and working in the church nursery. She sings in the choir and usually plays an instrument – almost any of them! - for the church services – and is helping with the Cubbies on Sunday evening in AWANA. She teaches violin to two students and soon plans to have a third student, and she also taught some piano lessons for her mother when her mother was ill.

During her eighth grade year Megan made another trip with her mother to Brazil, and she says she is really ready to go back. "I wasn't interested in the sights, etc. then – now I want to try things and explore everything I can.

Megan says she has her life all planned out – including what to name her children! She says she is ready for college now and plans on attending the University of Illinois in Chicago to get a degree in anthropology. "I want to travel, study languages, cultures and people. I'm also interested in genealogy. My Dad's sister in Virginia has been studying the family history, and that is quite interesting to me, too."

I asked Megan what her greatest accomplishment was – so far – and she said, "That I'm not as shy as I used to be. Life is a lot more fun." (I thought she'd say being able to play all those musical instruments!!)

Megan says that she'd like to be remembered as one who made others happy. And that she was a person who helped people. She says she prefers working with "little people". "Kids aren't mean," she said. "Their insults don't hurt!"

And she'd really like to try owning a puppy again!!