



# *new life news*

*April 2017 Newsletter of New Life Church of Christ*

## **April Birthdays**

- 1 – Larry Ramey**
- 2 – Karen Mascazzini, Bryan Clark, Mikayla Vail**
- 5 – Barbara Kindt, Joshua Dixon**
- 8 – Cindy Golden**
- 9 – Jim Mowry**
- 11 – James Hawkins, Carol Walker**
- 12 – Larry Mowry, Gerald Schumacher, Linda Schumacher**
- 14 – Anita Hawkins**
- 18 – LillyAnn Dawson**
- 22 – Ryan South, Zain Brown**
- 24 – Mary Kempton, Linda Ellis, Jared Starling**
- 26 – Betty Hamilton, Jacob Smith, Sam Dixon**
- 27 – Laura Dearth**
- 28 – Julie Brown, Jamie Mascazzini**
- 29 – Ron Ernsberger, Sherri Benick, Sheila South**

## **Steve Says...**

. . . Have you noticed how everyone seems to be categorized these days. We are Black or Latino or Asian or Native American. We are women or men or well something else. We are disabled or divorced or retired. We are left or right, conservative or liberal, R or D. We are big or little, young or old, smart or athletic, wise or ignorant, lucky or stupid. We are Catholic or Lutheran or Presbyterian or Church of Christ or Baptist or Methodist. We are rich or poor, blue collar or white collar, union or management. We are single or married, parents or grandparents or childless. We are renters or owners, Browns or Steelers, Reds or Indians, Scarlet & Gray or Maize & Blue. We are educated or ignorant, city or country, gun or no gun, climate change or deniers. We are dog lovers or cat lovers or pets are stupid. We are sports or music or books. We are privileged or victims. And on and on it goes.

And have you noticed how often it seems that the circle of our tolerance generally reaches only as far as to those who tend to be in the same categories that we are. Those who are of a different generation or a different race or a different gender or have different politics or a different . . . well almost anything. Those folks are fine as long as they don't try to get too close or interfere with my group.

And have you noticed that God only sees two categories

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of people. Those of his children who have found forgiveness through the blood of Christ, and those of his children who have not. Even at that what God really wants is for there only to be one category of people. We know this is true because we are told that, "God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> **who wants all men to be saved** and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3,4) This is why "Christ died for sins once **for all**, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus died for the sins of all because God wants all of us to be saved, because he loves all of His creation.

As a follower of Jesus and an imitator of God, I feel pretty small when I realize that those people I don't like because they aren't like me—those are the same people that God loved so much that he sent his one and only Son that whoever would believe in him shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (John 3:17)

So next time we are tempted to categorize someone, let's remember that we fall into the same category as them. A sinner, loved by God. And let's try to show some of that grace that God shows us through His Son.

## Jason's Jam

It's getting warmer, flowers are starting to bloom, the grass is getting greener. Spring is here! As the famous Christmas song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year". Yes, I truly believe that, not just because I love warmer weather, but spring also means Easter. Don't get me wrong, Christmas is a wonderful time that we recognize the birth of our King but Easter, the cross, is the most important event that happened in our Christian history. I am in awe to think what Christ did for me those hours on the cross! Those hours changed everything, I love him for that, I will love others and make disciples as he commanded me to do, and I will follow him everywhere in this life, because he is worth it. I hope to challenge the kids here at New Life, to begin to understand what happened on the cross, and how we should live our lives in response to the victory that took place on the cross.

### *Upcoming Events*

*Good Friday Service April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm*

*Resurrection Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45 &  
11:00am*

*Easter Breakfast 10:00am*

*Mothers and Daughters Banquet  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm*





I recently had a conversation with my wife about perspective. The more I thought about it, I was reminded of those pictures that may appear differently to people based on their perspective. Here is the first one. What do you see when you look at this picture? Is the glass half full or is it half empty? Why do you think that your perspective is the correct one? Perspective is defined as a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view. In many cases, two seemingly opposing perspectives may both be correct. This glass is both half full and half empty.

Your point of view is based on how you see the picture as a whole. Let's try another. This one is a little more difficult. What do you see? You may see an older woman looking down in front of her or you may see a younger woman looking back over her right shoulder. Which perspective is the correct one? You guessed it, both ways of viewing the picture are correct. There are countless other images and situations in life that give us a glimpse of how we perceive the world and others around us. Just a few weeks ago, Kyle, was reminding us that we are truly rich in the world's perspective. To have a change of clothes, shelter, and more food than we can eat is a luxury to so many others.



As I was talking with my wife she articulated a beautiful thought about perspective. She mentioned that the churches she was raised in "seemed like shacks compared to the castle of New Life." She went on to say that they would beg for an effective means of communication and making announcements. They also desired to have thriving small groups that would encourage and strengthen their faithful walk with the Lord. As I pondered her perspective I knew that she was not trying to be negative about her church experiences, instead, her point of view was different. Moreover, her attitude toward what New Life has to offer gave her a positive perspective on the resources we have and the opportunities we have as a church.

One man's junk is another man's treasure. In what ways are you blessed by your church family? What opportunities have been given to you as a member of the body of Christ? Is your glass half full or half empty? Perhaps an even greater question would be, "what are you doing with what is in the glass?" How we view the whole picture influences our perspective. If we were to step back and see the church as a whole, what concerns or worries would dissipate or become less important to us? Would our preference to see others experience the grace of God outweigh other preferences we may have in the church? Sometimes things are made out to be a bigger deal than they really are simply because we lack the perspective of the bigger picture.

Many individuals who travel on mission trips later speak about how the experience changed their perspectives. Trips like these are great for giving us a different point of view which in turn changes our attitudes toward the way we think and act at home. Sometimes we need reminded of the bigger picture in the Kingdom of God to help us put things into proper perspective. We can look at the exact same picture and see two different images. We can experience the exact same situations and circumstances and respond in completely opposite ways. I hope that we can take a step back and gain a godly perspective. Just like the woman pictured above. Whether you see the young woman or the older one, acknowledging another person's perspective will go a long way in improving our point of view and seeing the world around us as God does will help us to see the bigger picture.

A Mowry Musing



## Kyle's Korner

“Now brothers, I want to clarify for you the gospel I proclaimed to you; you received it and have taken your stand on it. You are also saved by it, if you hold to the message I proclaimed to you—unless you believed for no purpose. For I passed on to you as most important what I also received:

that Christ died for our sins  
according to the Scriptures,  
that He was buried,  
that He was raised on the third day  
according to the Scriptures,  
and that He appeared to Cephas,  
then to the Twelve.

Then He appeared to over 500 brothers at one time;  
most of them are still alive,  
but some have fallen asleep.

Then He appeared to James,  
then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one abnormally born,  
He also appeared to me.”

1Corinthians 15:1-8

When we think about Easter we generally focus our thoughts on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is appropriate because these events, with the Resurrection being the center of it all, are the whole reason we celebrate in the first place. Here, Paul is writing to the Corinthian Christians and is reaffirming what they (and we) already know. He calls their thoughts to the bare bones of the Gospel: Christ *died* for our sins; He was *buried*; He was *raised* on the third day. These historical occasions worked for our sake by the Lord for our salvation are the heart and soul of what our faith is about. However, notice one thing that Christ did that Paul goes on to mention that Christ did on at least six different occasions: He *appeared*. The fact that Christ died to take the Curse of sin upon Himself and to enter into our darkest fears in the grave shows us God's desire to remove the barriers of guilt and sin to draw us into fellowship with Himself. Christ's victory over death in His Resurrection show us the extent of His power over the ultimate consequence of the Curse and the dreadful weapon that Satan had held against us (Hebrews 2:14-15). In his 'trampling over death by death' in the Resurrection, Christ rises as the one who paid the Curse's debt and now lives to impart a victorious life to all who will be found in Him. But the last thing mentioned by Paul here is not something that gets the same publicity as the other events. Usually we think of the fact that he appeared simply to offer proof of the Resurrection. While this is certainly true, there is also something else about His appearing as the Resurrected Christ to others that we *need* to be sure to notice. It was God's purpose that the Resurrected Lord who had been Crucified be visible to the people He came to save. In our lives, as we allow ourselves to be vessels of the Resurrected Lord, we need to allow Him to reveal Himself to others through us. Let's allow our lives to be vessels where the living Christ appears, making visible His work and love for the world He came to save.

