

April 2010



The Baptist Herald



*"Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here; He has risen!"*

Luke 24:5

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection!

8:30 Sunrise

9:15 Breakfast

10:30 Easter Service

Royalheirs in Concert

The ROYAL-HEIRS hail from Flint, Michigan and organized in the fall of 1995 for the primary purpose of praising the Lord through the singing of "Southern Gospel Music". Their music has a quality that puts the emphasis on ministering through music. Music that blends harmony with soul stirring words that are a welcome change of pace from other forms of music.

Just as their name implies, each ROYALHEIR is an Heir to Godly Royalty. Each member has a glowing testimony that will radiate during their musical presentation. Each member has an extensive background in Gospel Music. Each has committed themselves to sharing their talents in this unique way and have been instrumental in uplifting and blessing many

people in their concerts throughout Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and wherever else the Lord may lead.

Also singing will be Gregg Spilker from Tennessee and the local group REFLECTIONS.

To listen to The Royalheirs go to:
www.royalheirs.net

Ode To a Restaurant Critic

I willingly admit that I have no idea what an ode is. We live in an age of instantaneous definitions; I could, if I so desired, go online and look up the actual definition. However; there is a bit of delicious mystery in not knowing exactly what I am writing. Is this ode to be a free-verse poem of uncertain length, beautifully describing a love found or lost; winding through meadows of metaphor the very air sweetly scented with whimsical fancy? Perhaps this ode will hop from it's hibernation hole and sit blinking in the sun, trying to decide what to do next, lumpy and brown, stupid and fat; a blot on the face of the literary spring. Maybe ode is simply a synonym for "a newsletter article that attempts to be spiritually humorous but instead provides cathartic release for the stream of conscious ramblings of it's grammatically challenged author". If nothing else "ode" has become introductory fodder, a well manured seed-bed, from which the ode springs, marked and scented with its beginning.

While there may have been other restaurants, the first one I really remember was the Burger King. We would go after church on Sunday night and each of the kids would get their very own small drink cup. There was an old rusty playground out back (before there were laws against tetanus) and inside, 6 soda choices provided unlimited drink combinations. We climbed over the tube slide and jumped off the platforms and

generally tried to break all the rules and ruin our church clothes as fast as possible, all thanks to the filthy forgiveness of the gravel. Whenever anyone began to slow, they would rush back inside for a power-up, running past the parents who ignored us; being so tired from the Sunday hypocrisy of trying to make kids appear righteous at church. I never remember actually eating at the Burger King, but I am sure that our church kept them in business thanks to consistency and weak-bottomed paper cups (you always broke through before you broke even).

My childhood restaurant memories were not just cheap fast food though; sometimes on birthdays or when my Grandpa came to visit we would spare no expense and engage in culinary extravagance at its very finest. Ryan's Steakhouse was on the west side of Bloomington; I can still remember the eager anticipation of pulling into the large parking lot; the aroma of mixed meats wafting around the eves; the glistening metal maze snaking toward the cash register; the brightly colored and totally ignored menu items on the wall; and finally stepping through the passage way and into the bright lights and sounds of the dining room; a true gourmet paradise! I would rush to the salad bar to load my plate with exotic delicacies, each compartment individually labeled and filled to the brim. Every desire of your heart could be satisfied at that table; all washed down with yeast rolls so soft and buttery that chewing was optional. Dessert was unlimited and

bountiful and yet somehow always fresh and hot, like it had just been pulled from the oven. And gummy bears, so plump and juicy, they would almost melt in your mouth. I still can not figure out how all that food could have tasted so divine.

Over the years my tongue has continued on, in an ever broadening survey of the world. I found myself traveling from liver pâté in Quebec, to Austrian fondue in the southern islands of the Philippines. Exotic dishes like roasted guinea pig (halved and cleaned for easy consumption) and diced tripe in peanut sauce (slightly better than you think) or the infamous Balut, (a duck egg that is allowed to fertilize and mature for several weeks before being boiled and served to dumb tourists who like to eat feathers and beaks) have all become part of my history. And yet, as I look back, the memory stands firm even as my current perspective changes. The appeal of an endless array of soda suicides has waned and has become almost as unappealing as the warm meat buffet's of my youth. Is it the food that has changed, or the perspective? Is there some picture or lesson here more significant than just my personal changes in food taste, could this too point to Christ?

Some Observations: As I look back I see that God exchanges ashes for beauty; my toads begin to sing and rhyme; things that at the moment seemed hard or bad have become great and glorious. I change but not enough; I still relay on my own perspective, which has proved to

Ode To A Restaurant Critic...continued

be consistently wrong (*we know in part*), as what I think are my greatest odes just turn out to have warts and croak. I value my opinion more than God's Word and so am uninterested in what He calls something and am eager to call things as I see them, bad or good, toads or odes. I look around and back and am reminded that God makes bad things good (me), make good things bad (sin), my perspective is constantly changing (restaurants), and His never does (constant); and still I judge. The day is good; the weather is bad; my achievement is wonderful; my weakness is awful; all judgments from a bad perspective. Lewis says, *nothing is*

great or small save by position (Perelandra) in reference to the brutal maiming of a toad, which in the context of the story is the worst thing that has ever happened on Venus; as it is the first injury on a sinless planet. So often our bad perspective is cured by position (*hind-sight is 20/20*) and in fact when our position is rectified we will *know fully even as we are fully known*. My encouragement to you is not to be too eager to judge between toads and odes. Often our position makes it impossible for us to see the difference. Instead trusting in *Our Father who art in Heaven* (positional perfection) admit your own inability and begin to seek to

know His perspective on all things. If you are interested you can check out Daniel 4 to see this truth displayed. *Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.* We need the humility to admit we don't know and then the humility to ask the One who does so that we can really see from a position and perspective that is perfect. *For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor 2:16*

Pastor Isaac

From the keys of Linda Wilson

We are surrounded by music each day. This can be on the radio, from a CD or IPod, or on television. We hear music in elevators, at the gas station and the grocery store, and many other places. Most of the time, especially in a public place, we don't pay much attention to what's playing, it's just 'background noise'. But in reality the music that we hear sticks in our minds and stays with us whether we intend it to or not. There is so much of this type of 'background noise' that our minds soak it up without us even noticing.

I don't have much choice as to what station the attendant at the mini mart has playing throughout the building when I go in to buy my cherry Coke every day. But I do have a choice of what I listen to in

my car or in my house, and I believe that the kind of music we **choose** to surround ourselves with affects our attitude and our outlook on life. There are so many songs that can put us in negative moods or make us feel guilty or sad. On the other hand, there are so many songs that can put us in positive moods and make us feel joyful or peaceful. By choosing to listen to music that helps us keep our hearts and our minds on Jesus Christ throughout our day, I feel that our attitudes are better and we are more positive people.

When we soak up the Word of God through the reading of Scripture, the Word changes our lives and teaches us how to live and to get through each day. Psalm 119 is a great example of this. I believe that the same is

true for songs that support the message of the Gospel in the lyrics. I would rather listen to songs that tell about the love of God who sent His Son to die as a sacrifice for my sin so that I can have the promise of eternal life instead of songs that reflect a worldly attitude of disobedience and despair.

When I surround myself with Scripture and with meaningful music, my heart is holding onto words that don't bring me down but rather lift me up. And when I feel lifted up and changed on the inside, my attitude will reflect my hope. Then, as 1 Peter 3:15 tells us, I'm ready to "give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have".

Well...I have officially started a blog. For many this is akin to saying that I now carry a cell phone or that I pay for gas at the pump and you may be wondering why I have chosen to write a newsletter article about this relatively mundane announcement. (If you don't know what a blog is, Mark Barclay, cough - cough—it is a web page where one can post their thoughts, ideas, pictures, and the like) Outside of a shameless advertising plea, I am hoping that this blog will prove to be a helpful resource and tool for the church. My goal is for this blog to be a place where you could go not only to read some of my thoughts on different topics and extra notes for studies that I lead, but also where you can find links, articles, and online resources that will deal with everything from studying the Bible to the latest movie review.

The title for the blog comes from one of my favorite C.S. Lewis quotes—*“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen. Not only because I see it, but because I*

see everything by it.” Lewis' statement poignantly describes the incredible truth of the Word of God. Just as the sun gives light to the world and enables us to see the world, so the truth of God illumines and is the means by which we see and understand all of life. As the Psalmist says, the Word of God is a *“lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* (119:105) I am becoming more and more aware of how much I belittle and underestimate God's Word by limiting the areas of life that I allow it to speak in and transform. The truth of God has so much to say about our marriages and leisure times, what we watch and listen to, our jobs and finances, our parenting and family, even our humor and speech. As I have sought to pursue Christ and His truth, it is as if my sight is being restored and my life and world is becoming more real and clearer. As God continues to teach me—about my sin and my need, and about His grace, His mercy, His power, His control and His rescue—my compassion and love for my neighbors grow...my relation-

ship with my wife changes...movies have a new look...songs on the radio have a new sound...Best Buy loses some of its appeal...a sunny day on the golf course with friends has a different feel...prayer increases and topics vary...repentance comes quicker and reconciliation fuller...life makes more sense and yet my foolishness is more apparent. I think this is what Lewis was pointing to, that as we grow in Christ we begin to see the world and life through the lenses of Christ, so that all we see and do has new meaning and a new purpose.

So my prayer is that this blog will see everything, all of life, by Him. As Paul says, *“For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”*

(Colossians 1:16-17)

Pray for the Persecuted Church—China

On Oct. 19, Neixiang police officials arrested 60 Christians attending a worship service, according to China Aid Association. After charging them with “disturbing social orders under the name of religious activities,” police fined five brothers and sentenced them to 10 days administrative detention.

On Oct. 30, police decided to

increase the sentence of the church's leader, Guo Quanyou, to one year re-education through labor in addition to an exorbitant fine. “When the police came to brother Guo's home to arrest him, they brutally pushed Guo's wife, Chen Hailan, to the floor,” China Aid reported. “The impact caused a concussion and broke her 12th vertebra. Chen Hailan continues to suffer from severe migraines

and can barely move her back from the pain.”

The Voice of the Martyrs has stood with persecuted Christians in China for more than 30 years. VOM encourages you to pray that Guo Quanyou will be released and that the exorbitant fines will be dropped. Ask God to heal Hailan, and pray that the faithfulness of these believers will draw non-believers to Christ.

GLCCM April Activities

Toddler room

Ms Janee & Ms Jessica

The new words we are studying are: cross, egg, tree & flower. Our color this month is purple. Bible time: I can taste, touch & smell. Our story is having dinner with Jesus.

Twos—Ms Jennifer

Our Bible lessons for April will start with Jesus at the last supper and go through Him dying for our sins and rising from the dead. We will be dedicating a week to each topic along with many crafts. We will be making a garden mural with our handprints and a spring collage with baby animals for spring.

Twos—Ms Melissa

We are learning how to cut and trace lines and will be reviewing our ABC's. Our crafts are going to be finger painting, coloring and using tissue paper. In Bible time we are learning about the importance of Easter.

Threes—Ms Daysha

We will be working on letters Y & Z and the number 12. Our new color is purple and we will review shapes. We do many different crafts every day! We will talk about things that start with the letter or color for the month. Bible time is always different stories out of the Young Reader Bible.

Fours—Ms Donna

We are learning how to spell words and count money. We will be working on sounds. Bible time will be about how Jesus died on the cross and rose again for our sins. Our crafts this month will go along with the Bible stories.

Fives—Ms Lisa

For Bible time, we are reading The Story of the First Easter, He Has Risen!, A Easter Gift For Me, and Jesus & Me Virtues To Grow On. In class time we are talking about spring. We will be working on the letters X, Y & Z and the numbers 11 & 12. We are starting to practice our songs for graduation.

Note From Julie

We are learning about Jesus being raised from the dead. We are singing songs in chapel time and learning about the resurrection eggs. We are learning that: God made all the plants and flowers. We are so excited to get to go outside and play again.

Our enrollment is still around 106. The school kids will soon be joining us for spring break. They will be going on a field trip and playing outside.

There is a new "Need" List if you would like to donate something to the daycare. Please put

the items in the blue container on the Welcome Center. Thanks again to those that came out for our Special Called Meeting on March 7th.

Continuing to service,
Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



"Needs" List

Batteries - AA/C/D
Clorox wipes
Clear contact paper
Dishwashing soap
Laundry soap
Glitter
Kleenex
Black sharpies
Stickers— any kind
Scotch tape
Masking tape
Tempera paint washable
Foam shapes peel & stick

Campbell Soup Labels for Edna Martin

Our Edna Martin Circle is planning a trip to Edna Martin Christian Center in early May. We would like to take all the Campbell Labels you have been saving with us when we go to save postage mailing them. If you have some at home you have been saving, please bring them in so we can trim them and prepare them to take to the Center.

All labels must have the UPC

code and the "Campbell's Kid" if it is adjoining the UPC code.

For labels, remove the label from the can before wetting the label. Make sure the UPC code and the "Campbell's Kid" are together on the label. (They cannot be taped together.)

Please drop the labels/caps off in the Campbell's Soup Can in back of the welcome center in the church entry.

Participating products:

Campbell's, V8, Prego, Swanson, Pepperidge Farms. A full list of participating products is available at the Welcome Center.

Thanks for helping us help others.



News From the Women's Fellowship

Our theme for this year is, "Being a Proverbs 31 Woman in 2010" with our theme verse being Proverbs 31:30.

Each scheduled event could be planned around this theme. We know many people think being "a wife of noble character" is unrealistic for today's women. But, we will study the different characteristics noted - her character as a Wife, Homemaker, Teacher, Mother, Person of Excellence.

Linda Harris, Our guest speaker, has titled her teaching "Blue Jean Faith". If you need long-lasting strength and duration, denim is your logical choice. That is certainly what we want in our faith. "A faith that lasts and is practical in our world today." We want to know how our faith works in our every-day life, a faith that works right her and now.

Total cost \$10.00

Plant to put on your blue jeans and join us for a great retreat.

A table will be in the Narthex after each service for registrations.

You may also register now for Beef & Boards - "Church Basement Ladies" August 19th the cost is \$43.00 and we have 40 seats available.

American Baptist Women—Edna Martin Circle

The Circle will meet Tuesday, April 6th at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall of the church with Ruby Sterrett hosting. Marge Hughes will present our lesson and devotions on the ABW new theme, "Women...Destined for God's Purpose." We will also be finalizing plans to go to the Edna Martin Christian Center in May.

Our community outreach opportunity for April is St. Clare Medical Center. Suggested items to share are children's books - Bible story books and others, coloring books with crayons and small

stuffed animals. This opportunity is available to all women of the church. Items may be given to Marge Hughes or Mary Jane Porter.

Edna Martin Circle is available to any woman in our church who has a heart for missions, wishes to participate in learning more about the ministry of American Baptist Women, and desires to share in Christian fellowship with other women. Please join with us. For further information, please phone Mary Jane Porter, 362-6687.

CLEAN, GENTLY USED
CLOTHING FOR
INFANTS THRU TEENS
IS BEING COLLECTED
DURING APRIL FOR
EDNA MARTIN CENTER.
BINS ARE IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Thank You from the Congregation

First Baptist Church,

Thank you very much for the delicious cookies. After hours of studying they are very much appreciated, my room-mate enjoyed them also. Thanks again.

Logan Mikesell



Thanks So Much!

Dear First Baptist Family,

Thank you for the prayers lifted up for Calli and the cards she received for her 2nd knee surgery. She is doing great.

We also want to thank Pastor Jeff for being with us during her surgery and blessing us with his prayer.

In His Love,
Larrie, Pat & Calli Patton

Dear First Baptist Family,

We would like to take this time to thank each of our First Baptist Family members for all that you did for our Mom. The concern and prayers that were offered up for all of us during the times she was in the nursing homes, hospital and at Whitlock House, we thank you. Also thank you for the flowers and the delicious funeral meal. We are blessed to be a part of this church family.

In Jesus Love we thank you,
John Astin Jr. & Family
Ron Astin & Family
Sandi Hutson & Family

Babies—Babies—Babies

Brandon & Missi Lee

welcome daughter:

Mayla Margaret Lee

Tuesday, February 23rd

at 11:24am, 6.14lbs 19"

Proud Grandparents:

Jim & Rhonda Lee

Jami Booker

welcomes son:

Johnovan David Smith

Tuesday, March 2nd

at 5:20pm, 9.2lbs

Proud Grandparents:

David & Sandy Booker

Toby & Sarah Reed

welcome daughter:

Marlee Kristine Reed

Tuesday, March 3rd

at 1:44am, 9lb

Proud Grandparents:

Jeff & Kim McMurray

APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 Word Watch 6:30
 - 2 Good Friday—Office & GLCCM Closed
 - 5 Blood Mobile 3:00
Financial Peace 6:00
(Every Monday thru April)
 - 6 Edna Martin Circle 9:30
Hands & Hearts 5:30
Elders Meeting 7:00
 - 8 Grapevine Dancers—every Thursday 7
 - 11 Trustee Meeting 6:30
 - 13 Board of CE 6:30
 - 15 N Kline Bible Study 7:00
Newsletter Deadline
 - 17 Royalheirs in Concert
 - 18 Membership Class begins 9:30
1st Quarter Business Meeting
 - 19 Hughes/Kinslow Studies
 - 20 ABW Spring Conference 8:00 am
 - 22 GLCCM Meeting 5:45
CACHE 6:00
CMT Meeting 6:00
VBS Meeting 7:00
 - 24 Book Club 9:00 am
 - 26 Assemble Newsletter 9:00 am
 - 28 Last Spring Bible Study
- 

March Prayer Concerns:

Levi Rockenbaugh—heart cath
Morris Davis—4 bypass
Toni McKinney—Hip
replacement
Marilyn Peterman—surgery
Skeet Morris—surgery
Dylan Earl—pneumonia
Callie Patton—knee surgery
John Thompson—surgery
Mike Funk—bone marrow
transplant
Jimmy Northcutt—heart
transplant
Helen Shull—Broken hip
Sheila Cran— pneumonia
Lincoln Zull—biopsy
John Thompson—carotid artery
surgery
Brian Holt—no surgery
Clark Holt—ICU, no surgery
Ashley Bloomer—accident

Extended prayer needed:

Ed Switzer—cancer
Bev & Dennis Lepper—
diagnoses
Judy & Leonard Tubach—
diagnoses
Phyllis Taylor—cancer
Randi Hanson—lymphoma
Patti Stewart—cancer
Tom Prince—Chemo
Jim Conger—cancer

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Shirley Astin
John Dwight Carter
James W Cullings
Sandi Elliot Watkins
Sarah Jennings
Lawrence White
Mark Mefford

Prayer Quilt Recipient:

Crystal West—accident/coma

April Birthdays

Anniversaries

2 Diane Conger	10 Kevin Carpenter	Abby Henderson
Ciara Bean	Cameron Hobson	22 Kay Moore
3 Cherlyn Hunter	11 Linda Carpenter	22 Duffy Thornburg Jr
David Wilson	Theresa McCracken	23 Roselyn Anderson
Mike Lourash	12 Daryl Hobson	Dianna Personett
Thomas Booker	14 Stephanie Pool	Glenna Nevitt
Jami Booker	15 Pam Weliever	Lydia Smith
4 Amy Anderson	16 Lesa Henderson	Allyson Anderson
Lleyton Anderson	17 Marci Pittman	25 Cindy Whitaker
6 CJ Brooks	19 Olive Steele	26 Diana Hester
Jean Keys	David Carver	Sandy Booker
7 Nathan Gable	Donald Miles	Joshua Patton
8 Sharon McClure	Julie Mitchell	Jay Strickland
Bill Douglas	20 Julie Hobson	Rylee Thornburg
9 Adaline Zull	21 Marcus Hutson	28 Debbie Lucas

1 David & Dottie Kincaid 60th
Jerry & Wanda Harshbarger
Aaron & Crystal Zull
3 Walter & Bonnie Terry
7 Bill & Susie Locker
11 Ed & Jan Furr
13 Michael & Suzanne Kincaid
15 David & Holly Timpany
17 Jeff & Jerri Stewart
19 Phillip & Denise Cochren
20 Steve & Martie Akers