



Pea Ridge Baptist Church

Grow in Maturity



March
2009

“To Know Christ and Make Him Known!”

Our vision is very simple...in love, we will **KNOW** Christ Completely...**GROW** in Maturity...**Serve** Wholeheartedly...**Share** God Personally...in short, our vision is about *making disciples*. I want to continue this month looking at one phrase of our vision statement. Last month, I wrote about the importance for each of us to **Know** Christ Completely. This month, I want to expound on the phrase **Grow** in Maturity. It is our desire to become a church that focuses on making mature disciples. All of us will grow up eventually. A couple of years ago, I attended my 25 year high school reunion. It was kind of strange to see people after that many years. Some were doctors, executives, professionals in some type of work...but the thing that is certain is that most all of them are grown up (notice I said most of them...some still acted just the same as they did in high school). My point is this...we are all growing up. Our children are growing up...we can't stop this from happening. As much as I would like for my boys to stay little boys...they will grow up.

So why do we specifically state in our vision that we need to grow in maturity? If we looked at other aspects of life, we would be assured that this process of maturity would just happen naturally in the church. But sadly, there are many Christians that have never put themselves in a place and situation to grow into a mature disciple. Jesus spoke about this in the parable of the sower. He said, “*The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity*” (Luke 8:14, NLT). It is so easy to let things stand in the way of our growth toward maturity. Work, play, relationships, and even church can become barriers to our growth in Jesus Christ. However, the mandate is present for our striving to grow in maturity. The apostle Paul wrote, “*Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you*” (2 Cor. 13:11, NLT). There is the promise of love and peace in God for those who choose the path of maturity. And it can be yours!

So what does spiritual maturity look like? In his book The Safest Place on Earth, Larry Crab wrote the following:

In the midst of all our efforts to describe the spiritual life, to live, and to help others live it, there are some things we simply don't know. Paul and John taught that none of us (including them) can see exactly what true maturity looks like (1 Cor. 13:12; 1 John 3:2-3). And we won't see clearly until we lay

our eyes on Christ. Only then will we know. Only then, after gazing on Him for a thousand years (it will seem like a day), will we look in a mirror and, with both astonishment and strange recognition, cry out, “*So that's what Christian maturity looks like. Of course!*” (p. 4).

Spiritual maturity will be visible in our lives when we start to look like, act like and show the same attitude of Jesus Christ. The more we know him, the more we are seen as mature disciples. The Bible tells us “*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...*” (2 Peter 3:18a, NIV), so in our lives we are to strive to grow...and that growth leads to maturity.

So what is the process of growth? Where does growth begin? I am a firm believer that growth has its roots in a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. It begins as we learn to abide in Christ. Healthy things will grow, so when our relationship with Jesus is healthy, we are assured some type of growth.

In their book One Month to Live: Thirty Days to a No-Regrets Life, Kerry and Chris Shook stated, “The key to spiritual health is maintaining a strong relationship with your Creator. If you are connected to your Creator, you will grow like you've never grown before, and you'll experience real power to make lasting changes.” These changes will result in a greater maturity and a deeper commitment to share the love of Jesus Christ with others. Jesus said, “*A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs never grow on thorn bushes, nor grapes on bramble bushes. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart*” (Luke 6:43-45, NLT). Our lives will produce the fruit that we are developing on the inside. It we are healthy and closer to Christ through spiritual disciplines, we will begin to produce good fruit from our lives. That is our goal!

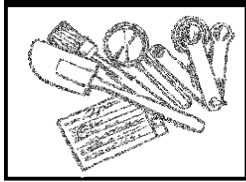
We must determine in our hearts to begin the growth process...making our relationship with Christ as healthy as possible and moving toward a greater level of maturity. As a church, it is our goal to continue the growth process in the lives of all people who are attending Pea Ridge Baptist. How are you growing toward maturity? What next steps do you need to take? I will be praying for God to work in our church as we move toward spiritual maturity!



a note from Pastor Greg Creasy...

5945 E. Pea Ridge Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304.736.5572 (office)
prbc@pearidgebaptist.com
gcreasy@pearidgebaptist.com
www.pearidgebaptist.com

Wednesday Dinners



Please...
If you sign up for a standing reservation, and cannot attend that week, remember to call the office so Erica can make adjustments in the amount of food she prepares.

Let's show our support by helping her keep the count correct.
Erica Mullins (638-1059)

March 4 Teriyaki Chicken, Rice, Broccoli, Dessert

March 11 Pork Tenderloin, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Dessert

March 18 Tacos, Salad, Dessert

March 25 Breakfast for Dinner



Next Steps Luncheon March 1, 12:30 pm

2009 PRBC Directory

The new 2009 Directory is ready. If you haven't received your copy yet, see Connie in the office.

Directories are always changing. As congregations change, there are always updates...birthdates, anniversaries, email addresses, phone numbers, etc. Please contact the office or add your information to the Sunday Connection Card.

Newsletter Survey

We have included a pre-stamped response post card in this newsletter. Please, let us know by returning the card, calling the office or sending an email with which method of delivery you would prefer and how often you prefer a monthly newsletter or an every-other-month newsletter. No decision has been made yet and your input is MUCH appreciated.

The April Newsletter deadline will be Sunday, March 22.

Possible April ideas: Easter activities, thank yous, acknowledgments, tributes, personal topics, jokes, as well as recipes, articles, poems or announcements. We are always looking for information from our various church groups: Sunday School classes to small group studies, youth group activities to senior plans. If you have any suggestions, please contact Connie in the office.

Some of you have sent articles and information to Connie for the newsletter...THANKS, keep it up.

Beth Moore

in Pittsburgh, PA

June 12 & 13

Union Baptist is sponsoring a bus trip to Pittsburgh.

\$168.00 ... 2 / room...\$150.00 ... 3 / room
\$139.00 ... 4 / room

\$75.00 deposit to hold your spot
Balance is due May 1.

*For more information,
Kelli Estep 736-3551*

Musical Opportunities

Would you like to provide special music during the worship service?

Would you like to participate in any upcoming drama events?

Would you like to join the choir?



If interested please contact Kathleen Napier at 733-4085 or Angie Martin at 743-5271.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

This Mission Team represents all of us.

We are still accepting donations... to make a donation, call the church office or drop a marked envelope in the offering tray.

Cat's Meow & PRBC (\$20.00) in the office.

All proceeds go to the Youth mission trip to the Dominican Republic.



Pledges \$112,417.00

Donations \$92,947.00

"Donations" reflects the amount given to date, not the balance on hand.

We are so close to finishing the Capital Funds Work List!

Last update ... February 1

Check out the calendar for more church activities & special dates!

Church News & Announcements



STARTING MARCH 11...

201 Disciple

Spiritual Maturity

Disciple 201 will build on the foundation of Disciple 101. In this class, we will focus on discovering spiritual maturity through understanding the habits of a disciple, of spending time in God's Word, prayer, giving and fellowship. Some very practical tools are given in this class to help in the continued development of these important habits in our Christian lives. Once you have completed Disciple 101, this is a good "next step" in your growth as a disciple. Join us.

301 Disciple

Discovering Spiritual Gifts and Talents

Disciple 301 will build on the foundation of Disciple 101 and 201. In this class, we will focus on the discovery and development of spiritual gifts and talents. You will complete a spiritual gifts inventory and we work to find a place for you to serve in your area of giftedness and strength.

Disciple 401

Discovering My Life Mission

Disciple 401 will focus on making a disciple ready to share the good news of Jesus Christ. That is a commitment made for the rest of our lives...being a messenger of God's Good News to other people. It is about using our time, talents, and treasure for HIS Kingdom, regardless of where it leads or what it costs. If you want to grow in an understanding of how to live so that others can know Christ...come to this class.

† You do not have to complete Disciple 101 to start any other Disciple class. They are constructed to go together, but you can take them in whatever order fits your schedule.

Pea Ridge Outreach Missions



POM will serve young mothers and their babies.

Baby Kits

- Diapers, sizes 1-5 (20 of each size)
- Baby Wash/Shampoo (40)
- Wipes (20 packages)

Mommy Kits

- Shampoo (40 travel-size)
- Razor (40 disposables)
- Shaving Cream (40 travel-size)

A Bible and prayer will be offered to each family helped.

Place donated items in the boxes provided in the front entryway.

Monetary donations should be placed in a marked envelope and dropped in the offering tray.

Contact the church office if you have any questions.

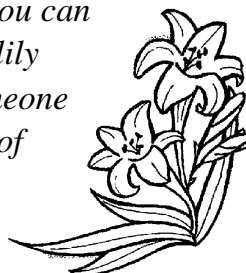
Erica Mullins, Angel Music and Kramer Kaplan are organizing this Outreach Mission.

Erica and Angel will oversee the distribution, starting March 15.



Lilies for Easter

Watch the bulletin for details about how you can dedicate a lily in honor of someone or in memory of someone.



- 1 Jennifer Browning
- 2 Lita Wright
- 3 Morgan Browning
- 4 Lennie Roe
- 5 Gary Simpson
- 6 Carl Martin
- 7 Alex Runyon
- 8 Madison Boyd
Logan Walker
Betty Crouch
- 9 Juanita Collins
- 10 George Roinestad
- 11 Dave Gillispie
- 12 Kathy Scott
Terri Newman
Greg & Mary Lou Sims
- 13 Zachary Dial
Harry Estep
Paula Bias
- 14 Rebecca Gaunch
- 15 Eric & Christine Staggs
- 16 Mike Myers
- 17 Garrett Gaunch
- 18 Stephanie Chapman
Jean Davis
- 20 Wendall & Patricia Childers
- 21 Bryson Potter
Avery Porter
- 22 Kathy Smith
- 23 Ken Harman
Tom Vickers
- 24 Garrett Kemp
Cheryl Parsons
Carol Porter
- 25 Greg & Amy Mink
Tricia Leonard
- 26 Tina Pullen
Kameron Thompson
- 27 Rick Hamlin
Rebecca Farnsworth
- 28 Annie Brownfield
Michelle Martin
Jessica Martin
- 29 Sarah Whitt
- 30 Robert Blankenship



ESTHER

A 10-week Beth Moore Study

Starting ...

March 10 Tuesdays 8:45-11:00 am
Leader- Johnna Gaunch 736-8811

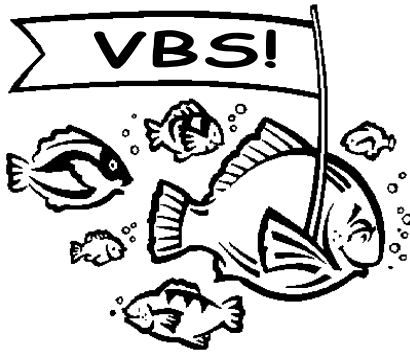
Starting ...

March 11 Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 pm
Leaders- Leigh Ann Creasy 733-3385
& Connie Forth 736-5396

*Member books are \$17.

Church email ... prbc@pearidgebaptist.com

PRBC Children Happenings



VBS Returns to PRBC This Summer

July 6-10, Monday-Friday, with a big finale Sunday morning

"Surfing God's Word"

Nursery - 5th grade

- Volunteers needed for craft preparations, chaperoning, food, games
- Van drivers (2 daily)
- Small toy prize donations (such as ring pops)
- Start praying for workers, teachers and students. Pray for God's guidance and His fruitful blessings that we (PRBC) may provide a fresh and exciting experience with God for our children.



-posted on the Samaritan's Purse website 3-24-09

We are deeply grateful for your congregation's commitment and support of Operation Christmas Child in 2008. Some 8 million gift-filled shoe boxes were collected, including 4.9 million in the United States—the most ever since the project's inception 16 years ago. That's 8 million children and their families who will hear the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, and it is mission-minded churches and groups like yours who make this spiritual harvest possible!

Children's Church

Wednesdays...

Team Kid-Kids in Discipleship

Games, Bible Stories, Games, Crafts, Games, Snacks, Music and MORE GAMES! *Bring A Friend!*

Wednesday Lessons

March 4 **Christmas-Courage To Do My Part For God:**

Jesus Is Born to Mary (Luke 1:26-55;2:1-23)

March 11 **Courage To Go To Church:**

Jesus Visits Jerusalem (Luke. 2:40-52)

March 18 **Courage To Follow Jesus' Example:**

John the Baptist Baptizes Jesus (Matt. 3:1-5, 11-17;Mark 1:2-11)

March 25 **Courage To Withstand Temptation:**

Temptation of Jesus (Matt 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)

Grow Opportunities -

Children's Music Camp, June 28-30 @ Parchment Valley Grades 3-6

Cost: \$105.00

Space is limited to the first 48 kids to register.

Children's Art Camp, July 1-3 @ Parchment Valley Cost: \$125.00

Space is limited to the first 36 kids.

Special 4th & 5th Grade Class

More information will be sent home by March 15.

Journals - The children are writing in journals. This is a proven method of self-reflection and growth for children and adults. (Adults from Disciple 201 have been using journals, too.) This is a wonderful opportunity for you to encourage and help your child.

Children's Spring Rally (Parchment Valley), Saturday, March 21

Anyone interested in going to this year's Rally needs to contact Christina ASAP. If we register before March 7, the fee is only \$12. After March 7, it goes up to \$25. This is open to all children grades K-6 and their parents. (Looking for drivers, too.)

Volunteers Needed - Christina is needing help to cover certain classes because of family commitments. The lesson plans are set - all you would need to do is be available. (March 1, 8, 29. April 5)

Thank you to all who have filled worked in our Children's Church in February!

Christina Black 633-2330

PRBC Opportunities to Know and Grow



The Easter Experience

What if what happened then changes everything now?

This unique, video-driven group study makes Easter more than a holiday. The Easter Experience is, as its name implies, a truly spiritual experience that has the power to change every member in a Sunday School class or small group by bringing the passion and resurrection of Jesus to life through dramatic storytelling and challenging teaching by Kyle Idleman. It consists of six 20-minute episodes. Prior to Easter, our Adult Sunday School Department will be doing this study during the Sunday School hour. All classes will come together in a central location to view the DVD, then return to their individual class rooms for discussion on the video and bible study. (**You will need your Bible for this study**).

If you are not currently in a class or small group, now would be a good time to get involved as we study the life of Jesus during His last few days on Earth.

A SNEAK PEEK AT WHAT'S TO COME!

1. My Life Has a Purpose

Jesus said He came not to be served, but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many. Focusing on the Last Supper, this episode reveals that our life purpose is found in serving others, following Christ's example.

2. My Life Can Change

We've all made bad choices, but we don't have to be held prisoner by them. As we relive the betrayals of Peter and Judas, we see both men overcome by grief over the choices they have made, and we discover that how we respond in similar situations can lead to repentance and life or despair and death.

3. My Pain Is Understood

Because the journey to the cross was marked by betrayal, abuse, humiliation, loneliness, and agonizing pain, we know that Jesus identifies with us in our own sufferings. "Because He Himself suffered when he was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted" (**Heb. 2:18 NIV**).

4. My Life Has a Plan

This episode imagines the thoughts and emotions of Jesus' mother, Mary, as she witnessed Jesus' journey on the road to Golgotha. In the intensity of the moment, she struggles to reconcile giving birth to the Son of God and the scene before her eyes of His imminent death. Did God really have a plan for her life?

5. I Have the Promise of Eternal Life

Through the interaction between Jesus and the thief on the cross, we find ourselves in Jesus' plan of salvation. The heart of the Gospel message is powerfully presented as we experience the crucifixion and death of Christ.

6. I Have a Hope That Never Dies

Mary Magdalene's miraculous experience at the tomb of Jesus is filled with a new message of hope and the promise of eternal life. Through her story, we rejoice in the reality that nothing can ever take from us the hope we have in Christ.

**THIS SPECIAL STUDY WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 8 AND
CONCLUDE ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

The Easter Experience Grow Groups

Beginning the week of March 2nd

- # 1 Tuesday – 12:00 pm** (Starting – March 3)
Location: St. Mary's Hospital
Host: Nathan Smith
- # 2 Tuesday – 6:30 pm** (Starting – March 3)
Location: 134 Belford Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
Host: Jeremy and Sarah Beth Napier
- #3 Wednesday–6:30 am** Men (Starting - March 4)
Location: McDonald's on Rt. 60
Host: Greg Creasy
- #4 Thursday – 6:30 pm** (Starting – March 5)
Location: Church
Host: Nan Richards
- #5 Friday – 7:00 pm** (Starting – March 6)
Location: 7 Permele Circle
Barboursville, WV 25504
Host: Greg and Leigh Ann Creasy
- #6 Saturday – 2:30 pm** (Starting – March 7)
Location: 6250 Fairview Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
Host: Darlis Stutler, Lennie and Janet Roe
- #7 Sunday – 10:10 am** (Starting – March 8)
Location: Church
Host: All Sunday School Classes
(Middle School through Adult)
- #8 Sunday – 5:00 pm** (Starting – March 8)
Location: 6276 Aracoma Road
Huntington, WV 25705
Host: Ken and Doris Harman



**7:00 pm
April 10**

The Easter Experience

*Good Friday is a day when we remember
the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus.*

*Join us as we consider the emotions and
view points of those closest to Jesus.*

*We will also share a meaningful time
of communion together.*

Opportunities for Spiritual Growth, Education, & Fun

March 13-14 American Baptist Men's Retreat at Parchment Valley.

April 18 American Baptist Women's Ministry Spring Gathering is being held at two locations: Charleston Baptist Temple or South Parkersburg Baptist Church.

April 25 Other locations for the AB Women's Ministry Spring Gathering: First Baptist Church, Beaver or First Baptist Church, Shinnston

May 4-6 Golden'eers Conference at Parchment Valley

For more information on these, go to wvbc.org or contact Lita Wright (304-525-0723)

And Also...

NEXT- Small Groups Conference

Saddleback Church is sponsoring a conference on small group ministry entitled NEXT in Cincinnati on May 14-16, 2009. Bryan Sweeney, our Director of Discipleship and Assimilation will be attending this conference. If anyone is interested in attending this conference (the entire conference or a day event on Saturday), please contact Bryan at 304-549-9812 or email Bryan at revbry7@aol.com

Discipleship Week at Ridgecrest Conference Center

Once again members from PRBC are going to the Ridgecrest Conference Center for the National Disciple Making Conference. July 13-17 are the dates. This conference would be great for the entire family. If anyone is interested, contact Christina Black at 304-633-2330 or cb4given@yahoo.com.

The church will be able to help with expenses for the events listed above.

Thank you,
Lita

- Merry Christmas from the Turley Family!

-Missionaries to Okinawa
-received February 17, 2009

Dear Fellow Workers in the Lord;

How blessed we are to have partners such as you in this ministry. The Holy Spirit is moving among the hearts of the people of Okinawa, and you have been a part of the harvest here through your faithfulness in prayer and giving, and some of you by physically coming to help in the work. In a nutshell, in one short year we have found a church home on the island, helped to start a new mission, hosted a fruitful visit of the West Virginia mission team, and have enjoyed preparing for and participating in the Baptist Festival of 2008.

Leslie finished her first school year at Okinawa Christian School International and started a new year this fall that has been full of activities to enrich the education and spiritual life of many young people. She is also teaching the women of the church, leading a choir, and supporting convention events.

David hosted an Old Testament seminar requested by the Okinawa Baptist Convention; started teaching English Bible classes, and is preaching in local churches. He is also immensely enjoying his pastoral work with kindergarteners at Okinawa Christian School.

Our daughter, Joanna, is enjoying her friendships at school, and is diligently practicing with friends from the larger community of churches for the children's portion of the Baptist Festival. She recently shared her decision to trust in Jesus as her personal savior! She is also very excited to have her elder brothers, Shinya (21) and Takeshi (20), visit us for a few weeks during their college Christmas break. Shinya will undoubtedly come with glowing reports about his Alderson-Broaddus soccer team's recent conference championship. Congratulations, Shinya! His younger brother, Tk, is most likely grateful to be getting another semester of university learning under his belt—or hopefully-in his noggin'. Blessing, Tk!

The Baptist Festival of 2008 was an evangelist thrust, the climax of three years of planning around the theme of churches reaching out to the communities and region. Scores of first-time decisions and rededications revealed a tremendous outpouring and working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the planners, workers, and participants! Praise the Lord for the vision and passion he has inspired in the hearts of the believers. Jesus said, "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them." (Matt. 7:20). The DNA of our Lord is being reproduced here! Praise His Holy name!

How terribly different would our lives be, if the Son of the Harvest had not come on that first Christmas to dwell among us! When we count the blessings of just this one year, we still hardly begin to understand the magnitude of His Love for the world! He is so good and so great! Aren't you glad to be a part of this little portion of His saving plan for the world he created? We are so grateful for your faithful and fruitful partnership in this mission. May the Lord bless you to overflowing as you celebrate our Savior's birth, and as you look forward to marking the beginning of a new year in His service. May He bless you with every spiritual blessing as you count the old year's blessings and face the new challenges ahead.

In His Love, David & Leslie Turley

If you would like to check in with the Turleys or find out more about their ministry...

*dturley.blogspot.com
turley@attglobal.net
Internationalministries.org*

January Teacher of the Month: Patricia Jordan, Altizer Elementary

February 08, 2009 @ 12:00 AM

BILL ROSENBERGER

The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- *The happiest moment of Patricia Jordan's day is when the buses arrive at Altizer Elementary.*

The first-grade teacher, who has been an educator in Cabell County since 1973, said she dreads the end of the school day because loves her job so much.

"I couldn't imagine being involved with anything but children," said Jordan, named The Herald-Dispatch Teacher of the Month for January. "My days go by just too fast. I don't know where the time goes."

Her passion for teaching means Jordan arrives early and stays late. And she spends her evenings and weekends either working on something for school or merely thinking about her students.

"I wake up in the middle of the night and think about them," she said. "In the past, I used to wonder if they had dinner or if they're warm. I pray for them everyday."

Jordan grew up in Cabell County and attended all three former schools in Barboursville. She earned a degree in early childhood education from Marshall, as well as a master's in reading education.

She started her teaching career at Nichols Elementary in 1973, where she stayed until 1984. For the next eight years, Jordan was a stay-at-home mom, although she was at her two daughters' school as a volunteer on a pretty regular basis.

She returned to teaching in 1992, spending time subbing and working at Highlawn Elementary and the old Barboursville Elementary. She is now in her 10th year at Altizer.

"I love it here (in Cabell County)," she said. "Especially Altizer. I have never been in a school where teachers are so caring."

Altizer principal Terry Porter said there isn't enough good things to say about Jordan. In fact, he said if he had to spend a day in a classroom, it would be hers.

"(Her room) is such a warm, inviting, pleasant place to be," Porter said. "Not to mention that she's an outstanding teacher and dedicated to her students."

Besides all the things described by Porter, Jordan's classroom also has its niche. Over the years, she has used



three large puppet birds that each have special personalities. One bird is the problem-solver and often helps students with issues both inside and outside the classroom.

A second bird is known to have behavioral problems, and the students are counted on to teach the bird what is right and wrong. A third bird is a friend and helper to anyone who needs him.

"It's better to use the puppets to get the rules across than to fuss," she said. "They listen to the puppets better than me."

She knows she is getting through to the kids based on the amount of hugs she gets on an almost daily basis. But Jordan said her real reward comes from parents.

"Parents often want to buy you gifts, and I appreciate that," she said. "But I've had notes, and one parent wrote me a poem. That means more than anything."

Jordan is married to Rick, and they have two grown daughters, LeeAnn and Brooke. This summer, instead of the usual trip to the beach, they will be celebrating the marriage of their oldest, LeeAnn.

And, she said she'll teach until she becomes a grandmother, but all in good time. For now, she's in no hurry to leave Altizer Elementary.

"I do give it all I've got," she said. "I try to be very positive and give a lot of praise. I want my classroom to be a safe and happy place."

-submitted by Diana Wilson