

# MT. COMFORT BLESSING



ROOTED IN CHRIST

APRIL 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

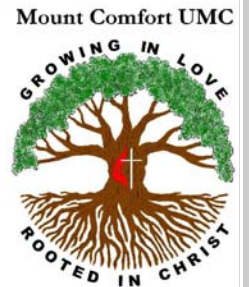
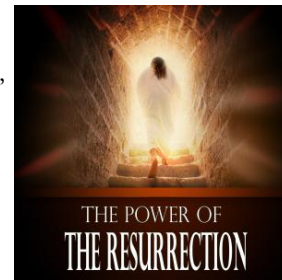
### Believing in Otherness

Writing the monthly newsletter article should never be tyranny, as in “something I HAVE to do.” Rather, with Easter right around the corner, this year’s pre-Easter article could be the occasion to help us all verbalize more about our faith. What if this article was my last chance, or your last chance, to convince someone else of the truth of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. WOW! THAT is no small task. But, nor is what God has done for us in Christ’s death and bodily resurrection. So, Lord, please bless and inspire this writing through your Holy Spirit! Let’s look at the resurrection through the lens of questions people have about death and heaven (or afterlife), and how the resurrection brings us answers.

- **Death: The Final Frontier?** —With apologies to Captain Kirk in Star Trek, death, not space, is the final frontier of life. Statistics on death are overwhelming: 1 out of 1 people die!!!! One of life’s biggest questions is—Is there something after death? Well, if you believe Jesus on the cross there is: “Truly, today you will be with me in paradise”. (Lk. 23:43) Jesus also promised on numerous occasions there is something called eternal life. (John 3:16)
- **The NEED for Salvation—** How can I get my life good enough for God? This is a question many people are dealing with at very deep levels and, a primary reason people stay away from church after falling away. The notion that “I’ll clean myself up a little bit before I go back to God or church” is one of the evil one’s biggest victories. GOD’S GRACE is the best word in the human language. Grace is unmerited favor. God loves us enough to welcome us home. God even loves us enough to pursue us to come home. “For it is by grace that you and I have been saved through faith (in Christ Jesus) and, this not of your doing—it is the GIFT of God”. (Eph. 2:8) Salvation comes by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord **and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead** you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9-10)
- **Belief in the Resurrection is THE essential of Christian faith**—The previous verse tells us first that BELIEVING in your heart that Jesus Christ is resurrected is the essential issue for our salvation. It is easy for anyone to believe that a guy named Jesus died on a cross. That is a matter of historical record. What makes Jesus the Christ is His resurrection. It is the pivotal moment of all history and, the centerpoint of Christianity. “If Christ be not raised from the dead our faith is in vain” Paul writes in 1 Cor. 15:14. But, how can I know this is true? Many people ask this question—it is the dividing line of faith as it were and, it is THE dividing line of faith in Christ. Christ’s resurrected self was seen by over 500 witnesses. (1 Cor. 15:6) So, this is fact, not speculation. Here is where we all can encourage someone to come join us for church on Easter. “Christmas is cool but Easter is about resurrection—God’s power over even death!! We all need resurrection power so come with me and listen to God’s message for you”. I KNOW everyone of you can do this!!!!
- **AC POWER**—Basic science taught us there is AC and DC electric power. I like to think of this in a Christian way as Apostles Current power versus the Devils Current power. Where do I get power to live my life? A huge question we all wrestle with, if not everyday, certainly in the darkest of times, is where do I get the power to carry on in tough times. God has a different level of power for us in the Holy Spirit—a power for LIVING today. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;” (Acts 1:8) That God operates in another realm is not surprising but it also can lead to more unanswered questions. All our questions ultimately come down to what I call a sense of otherness.
- **Otherness**—God, in order to be God, can never be fully defined or explained by us. The more I want proof, the bigger the irony is that I would then be able to explain God. I don’t want to worship a God who is confineable or explainable. In fact, I want a good God who is way bigger than I am, and is “other than I am”. Letting God be God, including the ways He shows himself, makes His will known, speaks to us, rescues and delivers us is all encompassed in HIS OTHERNESS.

So this Easter, won’t you consider pointing a friend, a family member, a loved one, or a neighbor to the One who is Other than we are. Easter and the resurrection are invitations to a life unlike any OTHER!!!!

Pastor Reid



Senior Pastor  
Rev. Reid Walker

Daytime Ministries  
Pat Zarse

Director of Music  
Elaine Holloway

Office Administration  
Betty Carpenter

Custodians  
John Bowery and  
Volunteers

Please have any articles (in digital form) for the newsletter turned into the office **prior to the 15th of each month to be included in the next issue.**

**Articles for the May issue may not be accepted after Apr. 15th**

## DAYTIME MINISTRIES PAT ZARSE—DIRECTOR

### DAYTIME MINISTRIES

*This is real love--not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

*1 John 4:10*

*For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

The nails didn't hold Christ to the cross. Only his love for you and me could do that! WOW! Think about that statement and the power of the Cross. I read this in the CTA catalog that I receive in the mail and those 18 words have been running through my head ever since. We are in the middle of Lent - a time to reflect. Think about what God has done for us and how we can better serve Him in our daily lives.

Serving HIM,

Pat



## CHILDCARE—PAT ZARSE

Special thanks to Brittany (Boyd) Newgent who has been helping in childcare. She came to us with experience and has been a real asset. We also want to thank Mrs. Roush's daughter, Sarah, who is a pastry chef and made the staff a red velvet cake decorated with beautiful butterflies. Yum Yum!! Also, thanks to the Bundy's for a bag of books. The children in childcare and kindergarten are now enjoying your donation.

It looks like the childcare room is going to receive a fresh coat of paint. It sure needs it. Spring break presents the perfect time for a crew to patch, repair, and paint the walls. It will be a great surprise when everyone returns.



MATTHEW 19:14

## PRESCHOOL NEWS PAT ZARSE

We're all excited that spring is here!! Look out playground! Please drive slowly and be alert for children crossing the church parking lot.

We held our Open House March 1 and filled several classes. There is still room for all ages 2-1. Please tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors about our ministry. YOU are our best advertising.

Parent/Teacher Conferences were held the week of March 21. Thanks to all the parents who attended. We love telling you about your children's accomplishments.

This past month the children studied Dinosaurs (a favorite), Wild Animals, Spring, and Transportation. On Dinosaur Day everyone brought their favorite dinosaur item to share and we had special snacks. They love the outrageous costumes that go with Wild Animals. Spring reminds us of God's creation and the changing of the seasons. Transportation is always fun talking about the various modes of "getting around."

The staff will be attending our state conference on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the convention center. Always lots to learn at the seminars.

In April the children will learn about Safety Helpers, Farm Animals, Easter, and God's Critters. These are all busy and fun units. Don't be surprised to see the fire trucks in the parking lot. If you have any farm animals you can bring to show the children, please contact me.

*Have a blessed  
Easter!*

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

--John 11:25-26

## KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT

### PAT ZARSE

April finds our kindergarteners close to the end of their first year of school. They have been a great bunch of kids and eager to learn.

For Easter they will create a visual way of the cross in our hall-way. They also plan to discuss the Easter story as they visit the sanctuary.

In science the theme of protecting our environment will lead to the study of ocean plant and animal life. Sounds to me like the gulf oil spills and the effects will be discussed.

History lessons will include Faberge' eggs. They are so beautiful and interesting.

Math and Language Arts round out their curriculum. Easy fractions and new sight words will appear, along with creative story writing. Sounds like they'll be busy.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

### DIEDRE FRYE

#### Donations and Volunteers Needed!

The Mt. Comfort Church Easter Egg Hunt will be held on

Saturday, April 23rd at 1:00 PM.

Donations are needed of plastic eggs, individually wrapped candy, and YOUR TIME! There is a box in the narthex for egg and candy donations and a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

**Please help us make this years Easter Egg Hunt a HUGE SUCCESS!**



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!

### ALICYN SWIFT

# All You Can Eat!!

Come one!

Come All!!

The Boy Scout Troop 236 is sponsored by Mt. Comfort Church and supports the contributions they make to our community and our church.



You are invited to join the Boy Scout Troop 236 at their first Pancake Breakfast on **Saturday, April 16th!!**

The all-you-can-eat breakfast begins at 7:00 am and lasts until 11:00 am. Along with the wonderful pancakes, they will serve sausage, coffee, juice and milk. The cost is \$5.00 "in advance" and \$6.00 at the door.

Children 3 and under will eat **free**.

**Come and enjoy breakfast before you begin the work day here at the church!**

Please email [boyscoutstroop236@gmail.com](mailto:boyscoutstroop236@gmail.com) for additional information.

## EXERCISE FOR FREE!!

How would you like to get in a whole day of exercise for free?? Well you can! **Saturday, April 16th**, is a work day here at Mt. Comfort Church. There will be lots of work for every individual that wishes to contribute. You could plant flowers or, if you are not able to do manual labor, you could bring food, drinks, snacks or even just come to get together with the rest of the church family and provide encouragement.

Talk to one or more of the Trustees and find out how you can help. There have been LOTS of wonderful improvements already and, there's still more to do.

Pitch In and be a part of those improvements! Times, they are a changing! Let's all get on board and make that a positive change for Mt. Comfort Church!! **See you on April 16th!**

## THE DISCIPLES SPEAK, WITH A NEW TWIST THIS YEAR!

### BOB MILLER

#### Special Palm Sunday Service on April 17th at 7:00 PM

A number of the men who portrayed the disciples the last two years, as well as several others, requested to do the Last Supper reenactment of Leonardo DaVinci's famous painting again this Lenten season. So, it is going to happen again but with a different twist. There has always been the question: "Do you suppose there were any women and children when Jesus and His Disciples had their Last Supper together"? The answer there must have been!!! So, here is what is going to happen. We are going to write them into the script!!



There is not much research to prove they were there but on the other hand there is not any evidence that they were not.

One of the women who must have been there was Mary of Jerusalem, in whose house the Last Supper is reported to have been held. Amber Helms will portray this proprietor who will introduce us to some of the likely other women who must have been around the premises at the time. For example: Jesus' mother, Mary (Pat Shreve); Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' closest friends (Marcy Green); Salome (Debbie Berry), the wife of Zebedee and mother of the Sons of Thunder (James and John); no doubt Mary (Sherri Shrieber), the mother of John & Mark; and her servant Rhoda (Elaine Poulas) was there. Judith (Linda Yates), the wife of Joseph of Arimathea, who is the one who provided the grave for Jesus' body, was there. There, of course, were others but these will share a word. Another special moment in the drama will be when Jesus steps down to the front of the stage and invites, "Let the little children come, for theirs shall be the Kingdom of Heaven." Jesus then tells the children in the audience a special story. All children are invited to come to the drama.

As The Disciples Speak and come alive before your very eyes as they step out of the painting you will be astonished, maybe touched by the reality of the drama, may shed a tear or even smile at the humor that ekes out from each disciple's account of their experiences with Jesus. For some of the disciples, and even the audience, you may experience the Holy Spirit coming alive in you. Playing the disciples this year are many of the same as they look forward to bringing this special message on Palm Sunday on April 17 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

Other cast members: Bartholomew, David Gioe; Simon the zealot, Rudy Nylund; James the younger, Tom Nigh; Thaddaeus, Dale Dickson; Andrew, Brandon Ludlow; Matthew, Bill Yates; Judas, Reid Walker; Phillip, Dan Linville; Peter, Bob Ewing; James the older, John Forcum; John, Michael Adkins; Thomas, David Holloway; and Jesus, Darrell Berry.

Rev. Robert Miller directs the portrayal with special music as part of the introduction and as Holy Communion is served to the audience by the Disciples. Everyone is invited to come and bring your friends and neighbors. You will be blessed and so will those who come to hear, The Disciples Speak.

## HOT CROSS BUNS—Make this traditional Easter recipe to remember how Christ gave his life for you!

### What you need:

- 1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
- 1 stick (1/2 cup) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 Tablespoons yeast
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 5 cups flour
- Icing
- An adult to help



### What you do:

1. In large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients.
2. Stir in flour, one cup at a time, to form soft dough. Knead on a floured surface until smooth and elastic (about five minutes).
3. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise until doubled (about one hour).
4. Knead out air bubbles. Form six two-inch balls.
5. Place two inches apart on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise until doubled (about 30 minutes).
6. Bake at 375 degrees until golden (13 to 15 minutes). Cool on wire racks.
7. Add icing in a cross shape. Enjoy!

## AS I SEE IT—JOHN BOWERY

Not much to report this month as all is quiet on the western front. My cleaning hours have been moved by the committee to the other half of the building. With the exception of the sanctuary restrooms, I am no longer responsible for the cleaning of the sanctuary side of the building. I will be working in Pat Zarse's side of the building. It has been a pleasure to serve you in keeping the sanctuary half in good condition, so that you may worship in a welcoming building full of love and joy.

Until next time,

May God Bless you all.  
John,  
One of your Custodians



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Patty Wilkinson	4-02		
Kenny Thompson	4-03	Ev Zarse	4-18
William Carder	4-04	Marty Haymaker	4-20
Marcia Piercy	4-05	Samantha Ferrill	4-21
Caitlin Grandstaff	4-08	Dana Denton	4-23
Lauri Thomasson	4-11	Heather Meredith	4-24
Wm. Dawson (Sleepy) Fry	4-12	Lisa Dant	4-25
David Springer		John Bundy	4-27
Kathy Bennett	4-13	Ramsey Neer	4-30
Kimmy Ellenberger			

## BELATED MARCH BIRTHDAY!

I'd like to wish David Holloway a belated birthday. I failed to include his birthday in the March Newsletter. David celebrated his birthday on March 25. I regret that my information database is not current.

## EASTER FLOWERS!



Easter Flowers are now for sale in the narthex. Available for purchase are Lilies, Asian Lilies, Tulips, Hyacinths and Daffodils. They are \$9.00 each. You may purchase them In Memory of or In Honor of someone you love. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for Easter. If you

have questions, please contact Sheila Voelkle at 317-894-4271.

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Andrew & Jamie McClellan	4-04
Dan and Patty Johnson	4-18
Lloyd and Leona True	4-16
Dana And Sheila Voelkel	4-16



## UPDATES!!!

In the coming weeks you will have an opportunity to update your information. Names, addresses, birthdays and anniversaries, emails and phone numbers should be provided. A form will be available on the information table. This is vital to providing accurate and timely information to you! Thanks!



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR ELAINE HOLLOWAY

I have personally felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our services recently and from the singing by the congregation, I sense that you have too. Can you even imagine sending your son to die on a cross for the sins of all mankind? And yet, we know that God did just that. As we travel this journey into Lent together, I pray that each of us will ask God to help us listen to Him, through reading the Scriptures, and to hear His calling to each of us. On Palm Sunday, the Chancel Choir will sing, "The Day He Wore My Crown", the Resurrection Story in songs, arranged by David Clydesdale. It begins with this text: "Jesus is the Cornerstone; Came for sinners to atone; Though rejected by His own, He became the Cornerstone. When I am by sin oppressed, on the Stone, I am at rest. Where the seeds of truth are sown, He remains the Cornerstone." What a wonderful time in the church year to remember the journey Christ took to the cross for us! I hope you participate in the music of the season for the Bible tells us to: "Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing His praises!" Psalm 147

Your Music Director,  
Elaine



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# *Mt. Comfort Church*

*Good Friday Services—Noon to 3 PM and 7:00 PM*

*Easter Sunrise Service—7:00 AM (Breakfast after service)*

*9:15 AM Christian Education*

*10:30 Worship*