

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2014



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisional sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Well were off! 2014 is underway and there are a lot of ways each one of us can spend this year. Anita and Kerry have been organizing the VBS for July and the first meeting will be February 11 at 6:30. In just a few weeks Easter will be here and Tosha, I am sure will need lots of help for another Easter egg hunt. These two out reaches are two of the biggest events we have each year and I would encourage you to volunteer and get involved. As David put on the sign, Find out what God wants you to do and get busy doing it. There is no better way to find what you like to do than to get involved. Also we have started back the Cottage prayer meetings and if there is one thing we need to ever do is to pray.

Let me remind you of our past several week's sermons, as they have challenged us to be diligent with what God has called us to do. Each one of us has been given a certain amount of time to work with, along with both financial means and both natural and spiritual abilities. My challenge is this, what dividend are you earning with what has been given to your trust. The body of Christ would function better if everyone used his or her abilities freely thus blessing the people of God and the lost. The body of Christ would minister more efficiently with an abundance if each person gave the portion that God has entrusted to them and commanded them to give. I cannot help but to think where the church in America would be if not for the previous generations giving freely to expand

the work of God. In that same vain remember God loves you and He wants what is best for you, He would never ask that which would harm you. As Warren Wiersbe said, there is not a mission endeavor or a worthy cause that the Church could not fund with abundance if people would give what God commands." Along with that there is also a blessing and a cursing that is attached to God's commands. He says if you trust Me and put Me to the test I will pour a blessing out that you cannot receive. He also warns that the man who refuses to listen to Him that man will suffer the curses especially that of having a hole in his money bag. You have been wondering where you money has been going.

So let me restate my challenge, get involved in the work of God make it as important as the ball game, homework, house work, fishing, hunting, TV, or showing up for work on time. Don't let church be an add on to your life in 2014. Second, try God and trust God with the portion of money He has commanded and see if at the end of 2014 you don't have at least as much as you had in 2013, I believe it will be more.

One last thought, if you take me up on all or part of my challenge, beware that Satan will try to discourage you from continuing, and I believe that God will allow this just to see if you are really serious, don't give in nor give up and see God work in your life.

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BARBARA & BILL

*face to face, in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!*



*Face to face with Christ, my Savior,
face to face—what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me!*

*Only faintly now I see Him,
with the darkling veil between;
but a blessed day is coming,
when His glory shall be seen.*

*Face to face I shall behold Him,
far beyond the starry sky;*



ANNIVERSARIES

Shawn & Ginger Carswell	February 6
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SCHEDULED EVENTS

February 9	Blood Drive @ CGBC
February 9	Benevolence Offering
February 11	VBS Meeting @ 6:30
February 16	Soup Lunch following Morning Service
February 17	Planning Committee @ 6:30
March 1	Work Day @ Montagnard

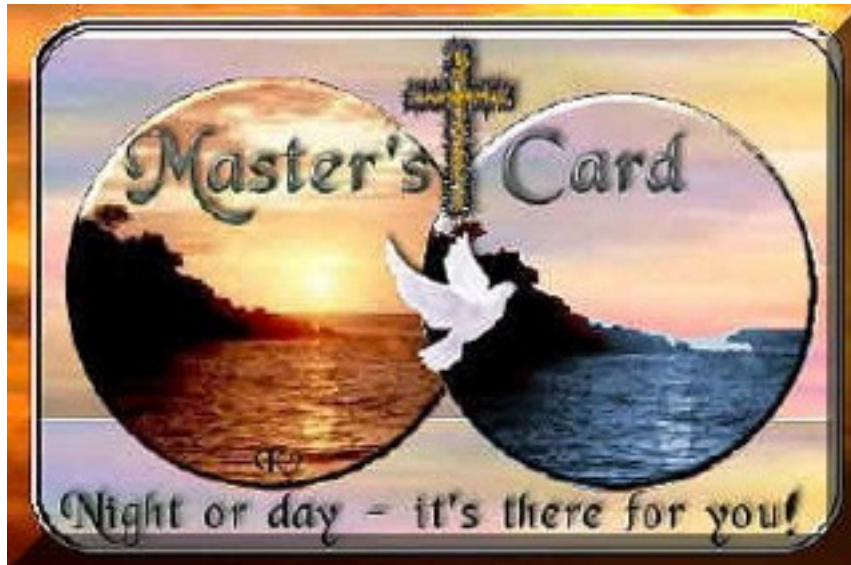


BIRTHDAYS

Shawn Carswell	February 02
Coy Curry	February 05
Doris McHenry	February 05
Luke Owens	February 26
Ashley Carter	February 27
Nathan Whitehead	February 27
Michelle Camp	March 03

Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of

Church, she always had a smile and pleasant



having known Barbara Owens. Many times in my years as a pastor, I would visit a saint who was suffering physically with the intention of offering encouragement to them, but I would be the one who actually received encouragement. Barbara Owens was that kind of saint. When she was able to come to

words. She could make you feel better even when she did not feel well herself.

Although we who remain will surely miss her, we have the blessed assurance that today she is *face to face* with her Savior. Please be in prayer for Bill and the family.

MY KIND OF CREDIT CARD

There are some things money can't buy, for everything else there's **The Master's Card**. I'm sure you've all received their applications in the mail. However, I'm here to advertise a different card.



You see, my life is a product for others to see. I'm a card carrying representative for **The Master's Card**.

That's right, **The Master's Card**. Let me tell you about it. There are no finance charges, no payments due. My bill has already been covered...it's a prepaid deal.. I couldn't afford the price, so Jesus stepped in and paid it for me. My Name is written on the card for all to see. It is accessible twenty-four hours a day from anywhere in the world. **The Master's Card** has so many benefits it's hard to list them all. Let me share some of them with you... you might want to apply for a personal card yourself.

Just for starters there is **Unlimited Grace**. That's right, there is no preset limit to the amount of grace you receive from **The Master's Card**.

Have you been looking for love in all the wrong places? Then, look no farther than **The Master's Card**. It offers the greatest rate on

love that has ever been offered. The Master's Card gives you access to many "members only" benefits.

Want real joy despite the difficulties of life? Apply for The Master's Card. Want a lasting peace? Apply for The Master's Card. Looking for something you can always rely on in a jam? The Master's Card is perfect for you.

Another great thing about The Master's Card is that it never expires and will never be canceled. Once you're a member, you're a member for life... eternal life, that is. Membership has its privileges, you know. So why not apply today? It's only a prayer away.....

I do not know why God does some things, but I am convinced that nothing is accidental in His universe. In the creation chapters of Genesis there is a beautiful exercise in utility—God making an orderly world for a purpose, with everything having a reason for existence.

If I am allowed to go into a hospital operating room, I am completely ignorant about the uses for most of the strange and complex facilities. But the surgeon knows each one and none of those instruments is there by accident.

If I could step into the cab of one of the great, powerful diesel locomotives, I would be perplexed by the many buttons and handles and bars. I could wreck the whole thing in a few minutes. But the engineer knows—and he gets the proper results when he pushes the proper switches and the right buttons.

So, when God Almighty stepped into the cab of His locomotive, which we call the cosmos, He was at the controls and He has always pushed the right buttons.

Just because there are things in the universe beyond my human explanation does not allow me to accuse God of making a lot of unnecessary truck to clutter up the universe. God made everything for some purpose!

A. W. Tozer and Gerald B. Smith, *Renewed Day by Day*
(Camp Hill, PA.: WingSpread, 1991–).

a Deeper Faith (Wheaton, IL: Crossway)

***God is more interested in your faithfulness
than He is in your accomplishments.***

John F. MacArthur Jr., *Drawing Near—Daily Readings for*

Did Someone have a Birthday?

Allen & Marion Mercer are listed in the Missions & Missionary portion of our Prayer List. This is an excerpt from one of their prayer letters. It is included here to remind us all that missionaries are real people with real problems.

The conference that I just preached at about a month ago was very different and refreshing. Its theme was "A Labour of Love." The pastor's desire was to encourage their missionaries and his people to gain a better understanding of those on the mission field. For example, the missionaries were told not to share anything about their works. No slide/power-point presentations were given and nothing was to be said about their accomplishments. The missionaries were asked to share during testimony times and in Sunday School classrooms all about their hardships and struggles. We know that missionaries are normal human beings, but some of the testimonies were amazing. We

heard about different illnesses. For one couple, the husband had recently undergone prostate surgery, while his wife, who had not spoken for six years, had a finger amputated etc. We heard from missionary children (in their twenties and thirties) who were struggling with the problem of not being able to find suitable Christian partners. We heard about a missionary who, because of pressures in his church, did not even want to go to church for two or three weeks. We heard about another missionary who, because of his extreme struggles, even doubted his salvation. The wonderful thing was that through all of this, no one looked down in judgment, but instead sympathized, identified, and were immensely encouraged. The church people came away with a much greater burden to pray and care for their missionaries. What a blessing the conference was.

**CHRISTIANS KILLED FOR FAITH
NEARLY DOUBLED IN 2013**

Rev. Faye Pama Musa knew immediately why suspected Boko Haram militants burst into his home last year as his wife prepared dinner in the family's northeastern Nigeria home. His stance against Christian persecution in the divided African nation had long made him a target.

Musa, who served as the general overseer of the Rhema Assembly International Church and secretary of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Borno, saw the intruders near the front door of his home in Maiduguri as his wife, Mercy, prepped food. One of the couple's daughters, Zion, had spotted the armed men just seconds earlier jumping a fence.

"Today you are a dead man," one of the gunmen reported said on May 14 as he dragged Musa to the porch. "Call your Jesus to help you, Mr. CAN man!"

Zion Musa then begged the attackers to spare her father, a request met with a misfired bullet that caused her to faint. She survived but her 52-year-old father – a man who worked closely with Open Doors, a nondenominational group tracking persecuted Christians worldwide – did not.

Musa, according to the group, was one of 2,123 Christians killed last year due to their faith, compared to 1,201 in 2012. More than half of those reported killings (1,213) occurred in Syria, followed by Nigeria (612) and Pakistan (88).

Joshua Rett Miller,

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/01/10/christians-killed-for-faith-nearly-doubled-in-2013-group-finds/?intcmp=latestnews>

Accessed 01/11/14.

Psalm 46:1–3, 10 (NKJV)

¹God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

*²Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into
the midst of the sea;*

*³Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its
swelling.*

Selah

*¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!*

It is significant that the psalm in which the words "Be still" occur is filled with noise and commotion. The earth shakes, the waters roar and are troubled, the mountains threaten to tumble into the midst of the sea, the nations rage, the kingdoms are moved and the sound of war is heard throughout the land. Then a voice is heard out of the silence saying, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

So today we must listen till our inner ears hear the words of God. When the Voice is heard, it will not be as the excited shouting of the nervous world; rather it will be the reassuring call of One of whom it was said, "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street" (Isaiah 42:2).

It cannot be heard in the street, but it may be heard plainly enough in the heart. And that is all that matters at last.

*Quiet the storms around me and still my
heart, Lord,
that I may hear the call of Your still small
voice. Amen.*

Tozer on the Almighty God: A 366-Day Devotional
(Camp Hill, PA: WingSpread, 2004), Feb 07.

FACE TO FACE

Author—Carrie E. Breck, 1855–1934

Composer—Grant C. Tullar, 1869–1950

In his book, *Written Because*, the composer, Grant C. Tullar, tells about the rather unusual circumstances that prompted the writing of this hymn. He calls the hymn his “jelly song” and explains in this way:

An almost-empty jelly dish at the supper table in the M.E. parsonage at Rutherford, New Jersey, where I was assisting in a series of evangelistic meetings, was responsible for the writing of “Face to Face.”

My fondness for jelly was not long a secret, and my hostess did her best to see that a reasonable supply was always on the table. The three of us had spent the afternoon calling on the sick, so we were a bit hurried in the preparation for supper that evening, and the jelly dish was neglected. It had only a wee dab of jelly in it, and as I passed it to the others, I possibly showed fear lest they should not refuse it...But host and hostess refused it, and as I started to help myself I said, “So this is all for me, is it?”

At that instant, “all for me” as a theme for a song thrust itself upon my mind with such force that I placed the dish again on the table without taking any jelly, and excusing myself, went to the piano and wrote the melody and a few verses, the first one beginning:

All for me the Savior suffered,

All for me He bled and died.

The pastor asked if he might sing it at the service, that night, before I preached. He told the people the story of its writing, and declared he had found the secret of getting Mr. Tullar to write good songs—“Don’t feed him too much jelly!”

We discussed the new song before retiring, that night, and I promised to revise the words somewhat...but that was never done, because when the postman came the next morning, he brought me a letter from Mrs.

Breck with several poems in it, and as I started to read the first one, I discovered that it exactly fitted my music written the night before!...No word of her poem nor my music needed to be changed. The architect had planned both of them so perfectly, that from that day on, “Face to Face” has been winning its way into hearts and lives all over the world.¹

For some the concept of heaven is a place of peaceful resting. Others envision it as filled with golden streets and sounds of beautiful music. For most of us the thought of reuniting with loved ones is comforting. However, the most thrilling anticipation for every believer when he reflects about heaven is surely the moment of seeing our Savior “face to face.”

The thoughts so well expressed in “Face to Face” were written by a busy wife and mother who by her own admission could not carry a tune. She had only a sense of rhythm. She said, “I penciled verses under all conditions; over a mending basket, with a baby on my arm, and sometimes even when sweeping or washing dishes, my mind moved in poetic meter.” Living with her husband and five daughters in Portland, Oregon, Carrie Breck was a deeply committed Christian and life-long member of the Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Breck occasionally sent some of her poems to a composer of gospel hymns, Grant Colfax Tullar, with the hope that he would set them to suitable music. Amazingly, when the verses of “Face to Face” arrived in the mail one day, Mr. Tullar had just completed the music for a song with words that did not fully please him. The lines of Mrs. Breck’s text, however, were a perfect fit for the music he had composed.²

¹ Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 More Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985).

² Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1996), 226.