

April 2005

# Good + News

a publication of Brown Corners UB Church of Clare

5540 S. Clare Ave. • Clare, Michigan 48617-9496

...shout from the mountaintops!

## A Benefit for Tricia Skipworth



Tricia is the one in the middle surrounded by friends.

Tricia Skipworth is a 12-year old girl from Farwell Middle School. She has been diagnosed with a rare brain cancer and has gone through three surgeries on her tumors. This benefit is to assist Tricia's family with money to help with the traveling costs and many other expenses that may occur due to the trying time. Please support her and her family by attending this event or donating to this cause. Thank you on behalf of the Skipworth Family.

**Events:**  
**All you can eat soup supper**  
Soup, salad, dessert and drink  
Cost- \$5.00 per person  
children 3 years and under free

**Carnival**  
Tickets for all events- .25 cents each

**Auction**  
Many items donated by local merchants

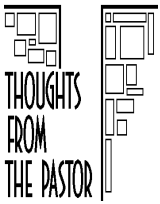
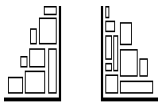
**Soup Supper and Kid's Carnival**  
**April 9, 2005**  
**at 4:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.**  
**Auction at 7:30 P.M. - "?"**  
**Farwell Elementary School**

You are invited to an introduction to Alpha, Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 P.M. to 6:45 P.M.

The evening will include dinner (a small donation requested) and a video. Childcare will be provided during the video. If you like the introduction you can try out the 10 week course that begins April 11th at 6:00 P. M. You can continue to try out the course one week at a time. We won't ask you to make a commitment to the whole 10 weeks. The course includes an optional weekend away May 20-22. Many find this weekend to be the highlight of the whole course. Others who have taken the course have found their relationship with God to be more intimate after the course and some have entered into a relationship with Jesus for the first time. Wherever you are in your walk with Christ this course will bless you. Hope you give it a try and bring a friend.



# Alpha



THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Once upon a time...’, or ‘It was a day like any other day...’ That’s how many stories, including many fairy tales, begin. Once upon a time seems to suggest that things are going along normally, but something is about to change. Something always changes, doesn’t it? What does change change? In other words, what is the new thing replacing? What is the old thing that’s being replaced? Think about it. What we know now as old was at one time new. The car you drive now was new at one time. The new car you are driving replaced one that used to be new. Now the new is better. Isn’t it strange that in most parts of life we consider new to be better, but in the church, old is better?

You have heard of the man who said that he had attended a church for 50 years. The interviewer observed that the man must have seen many changes in the church over those many years, to which the man replied, “Yes, and I’ve been against every one of them!”. Try as we might to resist it, change is inevitable, and in fact, unavoidable. Instead of hating and resisting it, we should accept it and embrace it.

Now, you know that I am not suggesting that change for change sake is always good, though it’s not all that bad sometime. Variety is truly the spice of life, but change has to have some reason behind it. The new thing must be better than the old, or at least the reason for trying the new must be valid.

An example from our own his-

Wild Kingdom exists to equip students to reach those who

do not know Christ, while **encouraging** one another

# WILD KINGDOM

## Junior High Sunday Evenings

5:30-6:30PM Game Room

6:30-7:30PM In the Jungle

## Wednesday Evenings

6:00-7:00 PM Bible Study

7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice

## Senior High Sunday Evenings

6:45-7:45PM Game Room

7:45-9:00PM In the Jungle

## Monday Evenings

7:00-10:00 PM in the Jungle

## Wednesday Evenings

7:00-8:00 PM Quiz Team Practice

COMING  
SOON!

➤ **Creation 2005**  
June 28 - July 3

➤ **Canadian  
Fishing Trip**  
(Just For Guy’s)  
July 14th-17th  
Sign up now

as we exalt Christ and seek opportunities to serve others.

tory at BCUB might be instructive. As with most churches, we have traditionally had Wednesday evening prayer meetings. Many, many years ago we moved to using Wednesday evenings for small groups. In a typical prayer meeting we would have 10-15 people, sometimes more or less. As small group ministry has developed, we now have 200 more or less involved in Bible study, prayer, and ministry to each other. The purpose of the church is to provide places for those things to take place. Which one is better? Neither is better or worse, but we know that any group will reach a saturation point and will not grow beyond a certain number, so more groups means more participation. So,

now we have many groups meeting for prayer, not one.

What brings about awareness or need for change? Gary McIntosh suggests 5 reasons in his book, “One Size Doesn’t Fit All”.

1. A Time of Crisis. Could be anything that makes us realize that “Something’s gotta be done!” Eden UB church in Mason recently had a major fire destroy it’s sanctuary. Obviously, something has to be done there, and they are doing it. What a change for them.

2. A Time of Pastoral change. This really upsets the status quo. Don’t get your hopes up, though.

3. A Time of Budget Preparation. This one hit us this year. The Lord has blessed us, but we had a number of unexpected expenses last year that ate into our finances,

“Thoughts from the Pastor”  
continued on page 4...

# Small Groups



Do you have a group of people who you would like to get together with and study the Bible together? Take a look at your cell phone phone book, your Christmas card list, parents of your children's teammates, those you work with.... Maybe you would like to form a group with them. It only takes three to start. Or do you have a favorite activity you could enjoy with others while you share your faith? Some ideas might be walking for exercise, decorating "remix", camping, fishing, canoeing, the list goes on and on. How about starting a CSI group? We have a number already meeting and inviting friends to come along with them to the meetings. To start and lead either a Study Group or a CSI group you need to attend a leader's training and submit an application. If your application is accepted you are ready to start! Our next New Small Group Leader's Training is Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 P.M. This training is for anyone interested in leading a new Bible Study Group or CSI (Community Special Interest) Group. If you plan to attend please give me a call at 396-2702. Hope to see you there.

Wendy Kindel  
Small Group Director

## Wanted:

Small Group Study  
Guide Books &  
Alpha Manuals

We are collecting gently used Brown Corners Small Group study guides to recycle. Books we are interested in are ones used in a Brown Corners Small Group or an Alpha manual. These books will be made available, free of charge, to groups to help defray some of the cost of materials. If you would like to donate a used study guide drop it off on the small group table in the foyer.

# Library Ministry



➤ *"Black"* by Ted Dekker

➤ Colleen Coble's Rock Harbor Series:  
*"Without a Trace"*, *"Beyond a Doubt"*,  
and *"Into the Deep"*

Here is a review from Amazon.com of the first in the series, *"Without a Trace"*:

*"If you like something that grabs you and holds on, Coble's Without a Trace and the town of Rock Harbor will do just that. This story is so well put together you can't help but fall in love."*

*Combine great suspense, characters you want in your life, and the faithfulness of a dog named Samson, and you have the ingredients of a book that will hook you. Sheesh, you might even have the thought cross your mind that maybe you'd like to move to the UP. Now, isn't that a little bit weird?*

*I have to be honest and tell you though, if you get this book, you'd better have the other two handy."*

-Delite Strouse



continued from page 2...

and we have tightened the financial belt to make sure we are wise stewards of God's money.

4. A Time of Revival. When God steps in, things change. I have read from those who have gone through great revivals that revival is messy. New people, new ideas, new problems. God really knows how to upset the fruit basket. Keep praying for revival knowing that it will be uncomfortable, but great.

5. A Time of Planning. The nicest way of change is to plan for it. You can't plan for fires, revivals, some pastoral changes, or some budget crunches, but you can plan for change. We are to be always looking for better ways to present the same old story in a way that is relevant to our community. We are planning a building that will allow us to further reach our friends and neighbors. We are hosting a seminar on June 4 that will challenge all of us to be winning our friends for Christ. We are hoping and praying for the Lord to give us new ideas to do His will. Keep praying with us, and if we have to change, be patient, because before too long the new will be old, and we can change again. Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

*Prasta Malan*

e-mail: cmalson22@hotmail.com

## Prayerwalk— April 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Prayer Team is sponsoring a prayerwalk at the Clare Community Schools on April 23, 2005. We are planning a 24 hour fast the previous day as preparation for the prayerwalk. Anyone interested in joining us in this adventure is invited to meet with us at Clare Big Boy at 7:30 A.M. on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for breakfast, fellowship, prayer and instructions. If you cannot make the breakfast, please join us in the parking lot at the High School at 8:30 A.M.

Our schools face many challenges in the immediate future: decreased funding requiring cuts in staffing and programs, resulting in increased class size and fewer teachers. School board members and administration wrestle with contract negotiations and ways to make funding cuts that affect the quality of education the least. All these funding cuts result in resentment on the part of those who fear the loss of their jobs and friends who sympathize. This turmoil affecting teachers and staff also impacts on our children and youth.



According to school authorities, God has been banned from our schools. However, God is everywhere present, even in the schools. The enemy we must fight is not the secular authorities, but the enemy of our souls, Satan, who works to prevent school staff and students from acknowledging

God's presence in their midst. God has given us all the authority and weapons we need to wage war against this enemy and to bring God's power to bear to bring peace and harmony to the school situation.

We will pray about those issues and others such as school safety as we walk around the school plant (elementary, middle school, high school and the alternative education building). We will divide into teams and pray specifically for individual teachers, students, administration, school board members, and other employees of the school.

## Prayer Warriors



Pray without ceasing is a command to Christians. This month we are continuing the idea of redeem-

ing the time to make time for prayer in our busy lives. Any household task that requires the use of hands/feet, but not much mental effort is a good time to pray: washing dishes, making beds, vaccuming/mopping floors. Other opportunities for prayer include waiting in line to buy groceries or other items and

driving to town to shop or to church. Maybe we can pray for the cashiers and for those in line ahead of us. Pray for those who will eat the food or wear the clothes we are purchasing

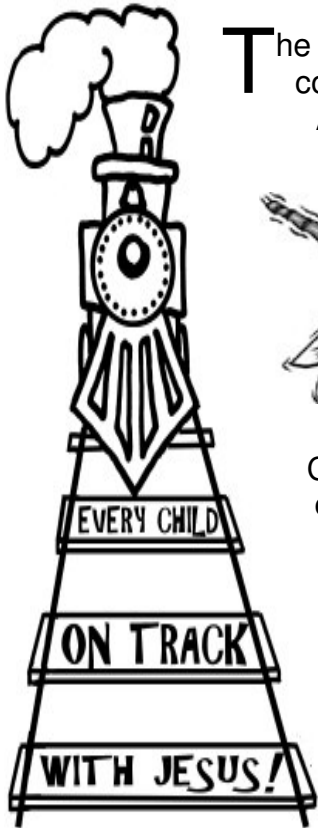
Maybe you can gather your family for a devotional and prayer time after the evening meal or before bedtime or on the way to church. I read a suggestion for a type of prayer in a book entitled "Prayer the Vital Link" by William Krutza, which he called the "popcorn" style of praying. The leader:

dad/mom introduces a thought and the rest respond with a word or two like popcorn popping. Suggestions are:

"We thank you, God, for \_\_\_\_\_",  
We praise you for your \_\_\_\_\_",  
"We are concerned about \_\_\_\_\_",  
"I need your help today/tomorrow because \_\_\_\_\_",  
My friend \_\_\_\_\_ needs your help with \_\_\_\_\_".

Carol Hampton,  
Prayer Coordinator

# Children's Ministry News



The Spring Party with bugs and flowers is coming soon! It will be April 9th from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. for ages 2 years through 4th grade.



Kids, have you invited your friends? Bring someone with you who doesn't usually attend church and you both will receive a surprise gift.

Come catch a "bug", a "butterfly", play more exciting games, and make a cool craft. A lunch will be provided that you will love but it won't be your usual lunch.

Don't miss out—come for lots of surprises and fun on April 9th. Don't forget your friends.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS: ATTENTION PARENTS

Would you like to make a difference in a child's life? You could have that opportunity by helping with VBS June 20th - 24th at 9:00AM as we go on a Serengeti Trek teaching kids how to be wild about God.

Come to a meeting April 5th at 7:00PM at the church to see what part you can have in helping each child know and love God, talk to Him, tell about Him and work for Him. We will need help in lesson application, games, crafts, or teacher's assistants. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still want to help contact the church office at 386-2702 or Leota Farrell at 539-6557.

The following are items needed for various craft projects. If you would leave these in either the church office or Leota's office it would be appreciated.

- empty frosting containers with lids
- empty baby wipe containers
- containers from such things as powdered drink Kool-Aid)
- nuts or small coffee cans with lids

Do you have elementary children's table games (Chutes & Ladders, Memory, etc...) in store around your house that you no longer need or want? If you are willing to donate them to the Children's Ministry, they would be greatly appreciated. They can also be left in the Church office or Leota's office. Thank you for your help.

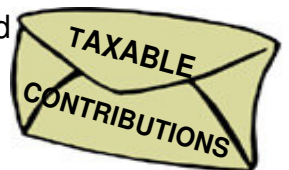
Watch out for the Malson Girls on April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 P.M.

As I have often stated, I have four mean sisters and one nice brother. I have asked, and they have consented to come to BCUB on April 10 on their best behavior and sing for us. Actually, all six of the Malson siblings will be presenting an evening of entertainment and song. You will enjoy it. Actually, as mean as they are, they sing pretty well. Come expecting a fun evening and bring friends to see that six kids can actually get along.



## The Envelopes Are Coming!

We learned recently that the IRS doesn't consider cash or checks as proof of giving to the church. They only accept offering envelopes as source documents. What this means is that if you would like your contributions to a church to be tax deductible, you need to put into an envelope with your name, or an ID number on it. In order to comply with this regulation, we are in the process of getting envelopes for all who would like them. There are some in the pews, but if you like, we can provide you with a box of your own. I know, this is a change, but refer to the article above on change and let's grin and bear it. After all, you might like it once you get used to it.





# Brown Corners

United Brethren in Christ Church  
5540 South Clare Avenue  
Clare, Michigan 48617-9496

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## Help Send the High School Youth Group to 'Creation'



There are so many high school youth going to creation that we need to take a charter bus to the festival in Pennsylvania. Can you help us earn money to pay for the bus? If you have

work of any kind that youth could do between now and June, please let Steve know. We are all ready to work for you.

## News



## & Dates to Remember . . .



For upcoming events see page 2.

### April 2005 Meetings

Tuesday, April 12th

7:00 PM.....Teams Meet  
7:45 PM.....Prayer  
8:15 PM.....Ad Board Meets

**Wanted:** A volunteer with computer data entry skills. Time requirements—4 hours on Mondays twice a month. Interested? Call Donna at 386-2702

### May 7th

Mother & Daughter Banquet  
11:00 A. M.—1:00 P.M.  
*(Watch the bulletin for more details.)*

### April 3rd

Introduction to Alpha  
5:00 P.M.—6:45 P.M.  
*(For more details see page 1.)*

### April 3rd

Daylight Savings

### April 5th

Blood Drive, 12:00 A.M.—6:00 P.M.  
At the Church

### April 9th

Spring Party for the kids  
*(For more details see page 3.)*

### April 9th

Tricia Skipworth Benefit  
*(For more details see page 1.)*

### April 10th

The Malson Girls will provide an evening of entertainment & song”

### April 11th

Alpha Course Begins, 6:00 P.M.

### April 23rd

Prayerwalk  
*(For more details see page 4.)*

## Everyone! Keep Saturday, June 4<sup>TH</sup> Open

I know that's the time for graduations and open houses, but you will be done by 2 or so in the afternoon. This presentation is so important that I would like you to consider it mandatory. Don't miss it! If you are a leader, a teacher, a helper, a greeter, a regular, a visitor, save up \$20 and plan to be here for a challenge to your spirit. Don Roscoe from Sonlife will be here addressing two issues. One is 'Are you a discipemaker?' And the second is 'How can our church be a disciple-making church?'

He will be laying a foundation that I want every person in BCUB to be aware of so that we can go into the future with a common understanding. Please be there!

## New Evening Schedule Starting April 10th

**6:00 P.M.** — Pioneer Clubs  
**6:15 P.M.** — Evening Service at the church  
*(no longer will be meeting at Aluminum Capping)*