

THE WITNESS

Circleville First Church

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April 2025

Issue 305

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The McGuire Home

Mark 16:15 – “Go into all the world and preach
the Gospel to all creation”

It all began with a vision of our **Pastor Jay Neff** for Circleville First Church to own a house where missionaries could reside when they came home on deputation.

Bertha McGuire and **Charles McGuire**, her husband, purchased 1313 South Pickaway Street in Circleville, Ohio in 1969. The house became a home with the love they shared together and with their two children **Mark McGuire** and **Mary McGuire**. Sadly, Charles passed away in December, 2021. Recently, Bertha moved with her cat, **Nippers**, to The Wyngate Senior Living Community where she enjoys various social activities and attends church and bible studies. Mark lives in Pataskala and Mary lives in Toledo but still find time to visit their mother regularly.

During one of Pastor Jay's sermons he mentioned that it had been his dream for the Church to acquire a local mission house. The house would provide a place for a missionary family to live, free of charge, while the family made plans for another mission trip and raised funds to return to the mission field. God heard Jay's prayers and made him aware that Bertha wanted to sell her house. The church approached Bertha and asked if she was willing to sell the house to the Church. Bertha and her children didn't hesitate and wholeheartedly agreed to sell the house to the Church.

The first step was to make sure the house would meet the needs of a missionary family. A preliminary inspection of the house was made and, after discussions with other members of the Church qualified to assess the situation, it was determined the house could be improved in such a way to accommodate a
(continued on page 2)



Easter celebration



He is not here...He is risen

April 13 Palm Sunday-Hosanna!!
Dedication for church congregation
New Members taken in

April 17 Maundy Thursday 7 pm

April 18 Good Friday Service & Communion 7 pm

April 18 to 20 Prayer Vigil
begins Friday at 9 pm

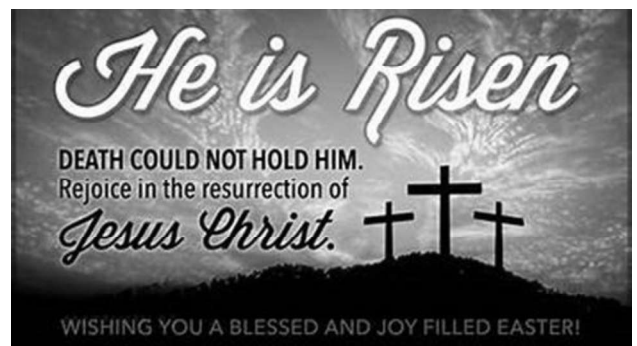
April 20 HE IS RISEN!!
Sunrise Service 8 am
Easter Breakfast 8:45 am
Easter Worship Service 10:45 am
Evening Service—dismissed



CHRISTMAS was the PROMISE.

EASTER is the PROOF.

-facebook



The McGuire Home (con't from page 1)

missionary family. Knowing that it would take years to raise the funds necessary to acquire the house in a traditional way, the idea of a Land Installment Contract was presented for both the Church and Bertha to consider. In general, a Land Installment Contract is a written agreement where a buyer agrees to purchase real estate and pay the seller directly over time instead of obtaining a traditional mortgage. Once the land contract is paid in full, the seller deeds the real estate to the buyer. The idea to purchase the house under a Land Installment Contract was presented to the Church board and the Denomination who both overwhelmingly approved the transaction.

In a typical real estate transaction, there are always bumps along the way of purchasing a home, but in this particular situation there were no bumps. God allowed this transaction to move forward to completion in a smooth and easy way.

Bertha McGuire strongly believes in the love of God and spreading the message of the Gospel. Bertha and her children were very moved that her home was going to be used to further the Kingdom. Now, Pastor Jay's vision and dream are a reality. On March 7, 2025, the Land Installment Contract was signed and recorded - Circleville First Church has a mission house known as The McGuire House!

In addition to the payments on the Land Installment Contract that may last as long as 10 years, there will always be insurance costs, real estate taxes and maintenance costs. Donations are welcomed and much needed now and into the future. Please be in prayer as to how you can help missionaries as they go and spread the Gospel.

submitted by **Rob & Amy Roesch**

Romans 12: 1-2 "Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."



Safety Team

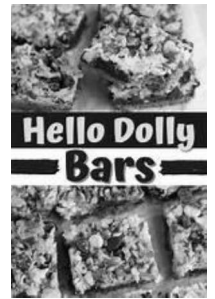
Sound/Video Team



Kitchen delights

Hello Dolly Cookies

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup chocolate or butterscotch chips
- 1 cup crushed graham crackers
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in 13 x 9 x 2-inch pan in oven. Spread crumbs evenly over bottom. Press down. Add remaining ingredients in layers. Bake for 25-30 minutes.

Cool. Cut into desired size.

*This is a recipe from the CFC 1981 cookbook and submitted in by **Mamie Truex**.

submitted by **Nancy Johnson**



Try a Growth Group class (Sunday School) at 9:45 am, stay where you fit in and feel comfortable



TRANSFORMATION

Chili cook-off/dessert auction

The Annual Chili Cook-Off/Cake Auction was held on March 2 in the Ferguson/Clark Hall, with chili arriving at 5 pm. It was rescheduled from February 16 due to the weather. **Joy Atwood** has headed this event for the fourth year.



The chili cook-off categories were traditional, spicy, and specialty. There were 12 chilis entered the competition: 4 traditional, 3 spicy and 5 specialty.

Now the evening's festivities began with sampling and voting of the chilis, then of course, eating your choice of chili.

After bellies were full, the battle began...

The dessert auction was on with 69 items...Our first elder, **Tim Tener** served as auctioneer. And the bidding wars began...Several members of our congregation began bidding against each other, fighting (in good fun) for a wide variety of desserts. Laughter, ooohhs and aaahhs could be heard all over the Ferguson/Clark Hall.

Cakes included: strawberry cake, coffee cake, cinnamon roll cake, pineapple upside cakes, chocolate cake with peanut butter icing, lemon blueberry cake, cupcakes with chocolate gouache frosting, heavenly pineapple cake, ho-ho cake, a heart-shaped cake, Heath bar cake, vegan chocolate cake, lemon cupcakes with raspberry icing and Reese's cake.

Pies that were up for bid included apple, blackberry, cherry, peanut butter, pecan, pineapple, strawberry and sugar cream. "It's mine," said the auctioneer as he won the bidding of the pineapple pie.

In addition, buckeyes, basket of freeze-dried candy, banana bread, homemade bread, pumpkin bread, homemade dinner rolls, turkey pot pie, barley soup, ham and beans, turkey chili, cinnamon rolls, double chocolate brownies, homemade fettuccini noodles, rhubarb cobbler and apricot cobbler were auctioned.

The top selling dessert was a sugar cream pie selling for \$500 purchased by **Chuck Wellman**. **Thank you, Chuck!** **Ruth Ann Tener** not only donated the item that brought the highest bid but also the items she donated raised the most money. **Thank you, Ruth Ann!**

Now the votes for the best chili were counted. And the winners are...

For the traditional chili, **Terry Shaeffer** took first place! In the specialty category, **Bradley Neff** took that one for the second

year in a row. Now the spicy chili, that is many of us need a fire extinguisher to calm the heat, the winner is the **Jim Senig**. **Congratulations to these winners!!**

Joy reports, "The festivities of the evening which included admission, cake/dessert auction and donations raised \$6,195!!! This was used for the down payment on The McGuire Home!"

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's chili cook-off. Thank you for the donations of chili and auction items. Thank you to those who ate the chili, set-up, cleaned-up, served, checked in the items, served as cashier, prayed and any other task performed to make this event a success! There are too many to name, but you know who you are and you know what you did. Thank you!!

Thank you! Until next year...keep on cookin'

Community cupboard needs

Breakfast foods-cereal, powdered milk, cereal bars



a tote is located in the overflow for donations

Bible study

Come as you are to Bible study at **1 pm on Wednesdays in the Ferguson/Clark Hall**. So, come as you are...



Sean Baldwin, Bob Byerly, Sgt. Travis Cotton, Ryan Dean, Zachary Haddox, Trent Holbrook, Brittany Mozingo, Andrew Williams and Tanner Wilson are serving our country. Please pray for them and their families.

Men's Prayer Meeting - Saturdays at 8 am

**Men's Prayer Breakfast-
Cancelled for April**



Stories from Elizabeth's Hope

I had a client contact me in November. She was pregnant, scared, new to Ohio and alone. She wasn't sure she wanted this baby. She wasn't sure where her support would come from or insurance or a doctor or anything. During our discussion, she agreed to an ultrasound.

The day arrived for her ultrasound and I was able to show her a perfectly formed 7-week baby. I pointed out the tiny flicker of the heartbeat and we listened to the "whoosh, whoosh" of her little baby's heartbeat as tears filled her eyes. We printed several pictures and were able to provide her with prenatal vitamins to get her off to a healthy start.

I shared information with her about our Mom's Program, resources in the community and a phone number to get her started in obtaining insurance. She was amazed at all we offered and the help that was available to her. She was now more confident that she would have the resources she needed to carry this pregnancy to term and also have support after its arrival.

In January, I received a text from the same client, scared again, anxious and wondering what was going on. She let me know that she had been experiencing spotting for a couple of weeks and was now worried that something was wrong with her baby. She wasn't scheduled to see her doctor again for a couple of weeks and really needed some answers. I brought her in for another ultrasound. You could tell by the look on her face that she was concerned so, not wanting her to wait any longer than she had to, I started the scan. Immediately, we saw her 16-week baby fill the screen and could see the little heart beating away, so of course we listened to the heartbeat. We saw arms and legs, hands and feet, spine and ribs. She was amazed as I paused her scan over her baby's profile. I pointed out her baby's forehead, eyes, nose, mouth and chin. She exclaimed, "It looks like he's smiling!" It truly did look as if her baby had a smile across that tiny face. As we were wrapping up the scan, I noticed her baby having rhythmic jumps and after watching a bit more I was able to determine that her baby had the hiccups. I reassured her that everything looks as it should at this point. She was so relieved to be able to take a second peek at her sweet baby and that we were able to be there for her to calm her fears!

This is why we do what we do. Be there for them in their times of need, with the ability to come alongside of them, encourage them, support them, and provide a resource to them free of charge just because we cared and could give her a "second peek" at her precious little one! Thank you for helping us to help her confidently choose life!

Kristie Steck, B.S.N., R.N.

Mobile Nurse Manager at Elizabeth's Hope

Hoping for Heartbeat Campaign

You can go online to give one time or set up a recurring gift at ehprc.org or by using the QR code that will take you directly to our online giving site. Please reference your church name in the comments section so we can credit your giving back to the total raised for the campaign.



Set your calendars for the first weekend in May. Start collecting good, clean, usable items which you no longer need. Someone else may need and want them. Last year we raised over \$2,500 for this ministry. This year let's shoot for over \$3,000.

So, when you are spring cleaning, don't forget...

Drop off dates & times are as follows:

Sunday, April 27 - after church & 5 pm before evening service
Monday & Tuesday, April 28 and 29 -- 9:15 am till 4:30 pm
Wednesday, April 30 - 9:15 am till 12:30 pm

Early sale:

Wednesday 8 pm – 9 pm for those who can't make it during the day times. If you have any questions or items to drop off and cannot make those times, please call Joellen Byerly at 513-680-6012 I can meet you at your convenience.

Sale dates and times are:

May 1 & 2 - 9am – 5pm
May 3 - 9 am -11:30 am -- everything will be gone by noon
Early preview sale – Wednesday, April 30 8 pm – 9 pm only

We will need many hands to make this all possible
please consider helping

Proceeds benefit Shoebox Ministry



Verse of the month

"The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again as Scripture says." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (The Message Bible)



submitted by **John Adams**

JOY (just older youth)

April 13 **Concert & Meal** (at York Steakhouse)
Leaving the church at 2 pm

May (Date TBA) **Dinner Theater** in Springfield, Ohio

June (Date TBA) **JOY Night** at Mount of Praise

July (Date TBA) **JOY Night** at Nippen

August 15 **Outdoor Drama - Tecumseh!**



Feed my starving children



On March 1, a group of seven travelled to Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Portsmouth and volunteered to pack meals at a MobilePack

event. **Joy Atwood, Sam Davidson, Ryan Delozier, Brittany Graul, Caleb Graul, Sarah Gruver and Cathy Marck** attended this event.

This is Joy's and Cathy's 12th packing event; the fourth event for Sam and Brittany; Ryan, Caleb and Sarah are first timers. Each person has a job in the five different stations. A cup or scoop of soy, rice, vegetables, vitamins and chicken flavoring are put into a bag, then sealed and boxed.

Sam said, "No matter whether you are in the United States (or anywhere in the world), this is still mission work. I have a heart for it."

Ryan said that he didn't have a lot of expectations of what this experience would be like, he but it was fast-paced. "I just wanted

to be helpful however I can."

"A lot of participation, the atmosphere was good, it was fun," Sarah said that it was really good.

Cathy said that this event is held every year in Portsmouth; the people are friendly, it is a good time. With next year's event, a million meals are expected to have been packed.

"I thought it would be a good time to help. It was worth the time and effort. I'd do it again," Caleb said.

Brittany said, "I'd do again, obviously. The first time, I was touched, my heart was touched; I got a blessing. I was blessed in a way that I cannot express into words." "This has inspired me to take over the Shoebox Ministry. A lady in our church shared that she has been praying for the Shoebox Ministry and my name continued to come to her mind." This was shared with me after my acceptance was announced to the congregation."

CFC kids corner

Money for Missions aka Penny March
Change for a Change



Return on April 13

Place on the table in the overflow



HELP!!!! Teachers are needed for CFC Kids. Prayerfully consider helping to teach Jesus to our kids. You will get far more than you give. If you are willing to volunteer, see Tanya.

submitted by **Tanya Patrick**



Do we have your email address and phone number? Our church needs to notify the congregation from time to time about cancelations and announcements. And we want you, **in the know**, we can't let you know if don't have your information. So, if you are not receiving notices of changes, please drop your contact info in the tithe boxes for our records. Thank you.

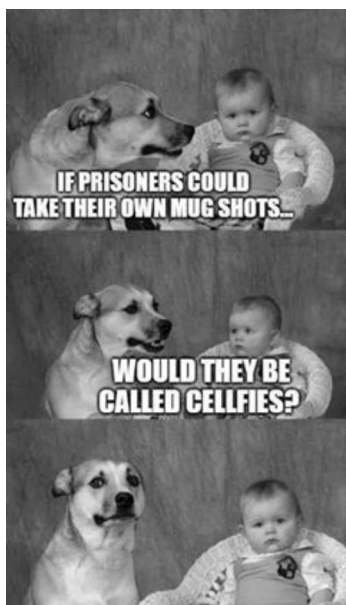


Jokes of the month

Whatever you do,
Don't yell into this...



You'll strain your voice.



submitted by **Bobby Dollison**

Circleville First Church is encouraged by the opportunity to partner with the expansion of Crossroads Christian Academy. Expectations have been made and compliances are being worked on. We are now awaiting inspections of the facility for final approval. Looking forward with plans for the school year to begin on August 19.

Sanctuary Dedication – April 13

Ladies, what is coming up?



Mark your calendars

Tuesday, April 1 - No fooling, we will meet for **Ladies Lunch** at 11 am at Ohio Christian University.

Saturday, April 12 - Ladies Day Out. We are going for lunch and "Thrifting" in Lancaster, I understand there are at least 5 good places to go to. We will be taking the van and leaving at 9:30. We will also make a stop at Loves/Hardies on 188 and catch up with anyone who lives closer to Lancaster and would like to join us. We haven't done this for a while, I for one, am looking forward to it.

Saturday, May 3 - Ladies Conference at Crossroads 9 am – 3:30 pm. Last year we took a group of about 15. Let's aim for 25+ this year. It was wonderful and inspiring. There is a registration fee of \$25, if I have your name and registration form on or before April 6. Just give it to Joellen Byerly or a person at the Welcome desk. The fee is \$30 if after that date. I will take all forms over to Crossroads, no need to mail them. (Information at the Welcome desk, if you do not already have it)

Tuesday, May 6 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am, we will meet for lunch at Zanzi's on Main St. (Location change, OCU dining hall closed May – mid August)

Tuesday, May 20 - Ladies Night at 6:30 pm, in the Ferguson/Clark Hall. We are having a Bridal **Shower** for **Tara Neff and Mason**. Bring a favorite recipe or two to give to the new bride to be. If you cannot attend, please just pass your gift along.

Tuesday, June 3 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am, we will meet at Arby's

Friday, June 20 - Ladies Night at OCU. Dessert buffet 5:30 – 7 pm with concert and speaker starting at 7:30. More details to come, I believe the cost is \$15.00. I will collect names and money. See Joellen Byerly.

Tuesday, July 8 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am - place to be announced. **Notice date change**

Tuesday, August 5 – Ladies Lunch at 11 am - place to be announced

Tuesday, September 2 - Ladies Lunch at 11 am at OCU



Ladies' ECL retreat

Ladies South Central District ECL Retreat held on March 14 & 15 at Deer Creek Lodge, was attended by 14 ladies from our church. Everyone had a wonderful time. This is a yearly retreat and we would love to take another group again in the future. It is traditionally the 2nd or 3rd weekend in March and the cost is \$150 or higher depending on room arrangements. We all know this may be high for some who would like to attend, however if you could give me \$20 a month, I (Joellen) will save it for you (kind of like a lay-away plan). We will also be doing some Wednesday evening meals to help with the cost. More information to come.

Cathy Marck testified, "I enjoyed having dinner with some ladies from Portsmouth and Cincinnati on Friday night. Our speaker was excellent and encouraging. She was helpful to show that God can have power over times in the past when we've been hurt and help us move on by the power of the Spirit."

"On March 14 and 15, I attended the South Central District Spring ECL Retreat at Deer Creek Lodge. This was my first retreat. Dr Tammy Smith was the speaker and she was fantastic. Her message taught us how words affect us, whether we are hearing them or speaking them. Amber Sparks Kasper sang at the retreat and she has an amazing voice. We enjoyed a scavenger hunt, delicious food and a wonderful snack table of cookies. It was a great time of fellowship with friends from CFC, as well as people I had not seen in years and many ladies I was meeting for the first time. Did I mention this was my first retreat? Well, I'm sure it won't be my last and I hope you will come along next year," shared **Sue Stonerock**.

Donna Payne states, "The Ladies' retreat this year was amazing. I will definitely be going again next year. It was also special to me because my oldest daughter **Gabby**, got to go with me. It was nice to be able to get to know other ladies from our church more. And connected with ladies from other churches as well. The speaker talked about the power of words. There were many different things that I took away from her but here are a few...A person's hearing is one of the last things to go when they are passing away. Words stick with people which she proved by saying a few lines of different songs to see if we knew what words came next. I can't tell you when I memorized the words of the songs that she gave but without even realizing it I did know every word of each song she used. As a mother, this definitely makes me more cautious with the things I let my kids listen to. The last thing I took away was how important it is to know my Heavenly Father's voice over the lies of the enemy. God's word tells us how much he loves us and how much each of us matter to Him.

To the ladies that went this year, thank you for a fun ladies' retreat, can't wait for next year!! Ladies that didn't go, please join us next year!!! Teenage ladies, please join us next year. Parents/grandparents of young ladies, please get them involved with things like this. They are the future of our church and ECL. The ladies there were so caring and supportive to Gabby!!

2025 Refresh, Restore, Rejoice Women's Conference at Crossroads Church on 5679 Tarlton Road on **May 3** from 9 am to 3:30 pm. **Registration Required. Early Bird Registration fee is \$25 by April 7. Deadline to sign up is April 21 for \$30.** Lunch and snacks are included. Please bring your Bible. Casual attire is appropriate. Unfortunately, childcare is not available.

Email: rejoicewomensconference@gmail.com
Facebook: @rejoicewomensconference
Questions? Contact Tammy 614-361-8438

New Members Accepted—April 13

If you need of a gift...Candy Bouquets

Bouquets are located in the back of the church. The cost is \$10 apiece; the money benefits missions. Envelopes are provided for your payment and can be placed in the collection boxes. There are also floral sticks and cards/stickers you can add to your bouquet as a gift card or greeting card.



Thanks to all who have donated toward this ministry.

submitted by **Cathy Marck**



Maundy Thursday
April 17 at 7 pm

Good Friday Service & Communion
7 pm

Prayer Vigil
begins April 18 at 9 pm

TOOTHBRUSHES



- 4 – 1 April Fool's Day
- 4 – 13 Palm Sunday-Hosanna!!
Sanctuary Dedication 10:45 am
Receive New Members
10:45 am
JOY--Gospel Sing

- 4 – 17 Maundy Thursday 7 pm
- 4 – 18 Good Friday Service & Communion 7 pm
- 4 – 18 to 4 – 20 Prayer Vigil begins Friday at 9 pm
- 4 – 20 HE IS RISEN!!
Sunrise Service 8 am
Easter Breakfast 8:45 am
Easter Worship Service 10:45 am
Evening Service--dismissed



Vroom! Vroom!
Get your motor running

Circleville First Church

19th Annual Spring Auto Show



May 4



Plans are being made to fill the
Associate Pastor position to begin in July

CFC Annual Business Meeting—May 28

Aaron & Hur prayer closet

Be a prayer warrior. A prayer what? A prayer warrior...you know when you pray, talk to God. Oh, I see. Ok, so how do I do that? Sign up to be in the Aaron & Hur prayer closet.

So let me explain...It all began with a desk and two chairs in **Pastor Steve Palmer's** old office located in the front of the sanctuary. **Pastor Mike Holbrook**, now General Superintendent, realized the importance of prayer during a worship service.

The main purpose of the prayer closet is intercessory prayer for and during the Sunday morning church service. All aspects of the church are prayed for: the offering, worship team, the preaching, altar call, other events that occur, as well as the needs of the church, individuals' needs and whatever/whoever comes to mind, whether or not the church knows of these needs.

The name, Aaron and Hur prayer closet comes from Exodus 17:12 when the Israelites were fighting against the Amalekites. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning. His hands grew tired, Aaron stood on one side of Moses and Hur on the other side; they held his hands up until the battle was won.

Directions and ideas are available in the prayer closet on what to pray for and how to pray if needed. Also, a notebook is there for your thoughts if you would like to participate.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

Evening Service on April 20 --dismissed

Jesus

Born as a baby
Preached as a child
Killed as a man
Arose as a Victor and
Coming back as the
KING



-Facebook