



May 2005

# Good + News

a publication of Brown Corners UB Church of Clare

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

...shout from the mountaintops!

## Coming in June... "Jason Gay in Concert"

Last year you enjoyed Jason Gay's great personality and wonderful music. You will again, Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM on Sunday evening. Plan to bring your friends.

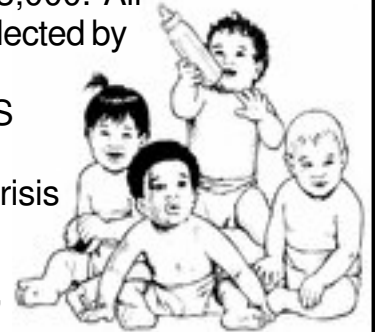


## Annual "Walk for Life" Saturday, May 21st 2:00 - 5:00 PM at Island Park in Mt. Pleasant

Sponsored by Central Michigan  
Pregnancy Service of Mt. Pleasant

Come join us for music, food, fun and walking. Registration forms are on the welcome table in the Foyer. Our goal this year is to raise \$23,000. All pledges will be collected by CMPS.

Last year CMPS serviced over 900 young women in crisis pregnancies, plus our "Earn While You Learn Clients"



## Small Group Banquet May 25th 7:00-9:30 PM

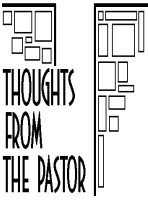
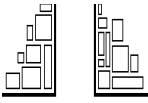


Come celebrate your small group along with all the small groups at Browns May 25th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at our annual banquet. For dinner sample other groups delicious salads and legendary desserts along with a main dish prepared by Jody Robinson and her crew. This year each group will decorate their dining tables with a theme. A prize will be awarded for the decorating. The coveted (or dreaded) "Wendy Awards" will be awarded to the most deserving groups or group members. We will also honor our leaders with gifts. Come for a fun evening and see how many people are involved in small groups.

## Donation Envelopes

We hope to begin using the envelope giving system on or about the first Sunday in July. Each giver will be given a box of envelopes that will have an identifying number keyed to your name. They will also be dated for each Sunday in the year. Keep your ears open for more info.





If you attended BCUB on April 10<sup>th</sup>, a couple weeks ago, you may have had trouble finding a seat in the 8:30 service, and found more than usual in the 11:00 service. That's because there were more people in our

church that day than in any one single Sunday in our 119 year history, excluding Easter and Christmas Sundays. There were 475 people here that day. It was great to see. After all, the desire of God is that all people come to repentance and become part of Christ's body, the Church. It also brings up an interesting question. How do churches grow?

Let's start with a more fundamental question. Why should a church grow? After all, it's much more comfortable to be in a church where I know everyone. Growth is uncomfortable. It causes changes, lots of them. Does every church have to become a big church? Isn't there room for small churches?

God has called us to reach as many people for Him as possible, which means that if we reach one, we should increase by one. If increase of the Universal Church is God's plan, then increasing the local church is also His plan, because the church is His mode of operation. Granted, not all churches exist in areas with as much potential as others. A church like ours will not have the potential to grow like a city church could, just because of population numbers. Church growth experts can explain the reasons why good churches don't grow, but we won't take the time and space to discuss them here.

Suffice it to quote Elmer Towns, noted church researcher, "A

Wild Kingdom exists to equip students to reach those who

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

# WILD KINGDOM

as we exalt Christ and seek opportunities to serve others.

## 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*

## 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 *Guy's Bible Study*

## Upcoming Events

### High School Graduate Recognition Day

May 15<sup>th</sup>

(during Worship service)

### Youth Summer Schedule

Starts June 5<sup>th</sup>

### Creation Festival

June 28<sup>th</sup> - July 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Canadian Fishing Trip

(just for guys)

July 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

church is like grass, it will grow unless there is something standing on it." Most churches can, and should, grow, BCUB included.

Now, how does a church grow? Actually, it's not rocket science. Churches are made up of people, and people are attracted to other people, primarily through love and warmth. As Gary McIntosh says, "Like moths, people gravitate to light and warmth". Light, of course is the truth as presented in God's Word and proclaimed and lived through His people. In his book, *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched*, Thom Rainer found that people who had not attended church, but began to do so, wanted to hear the unvarnished truth of God in a straightforward manner from a church that believed it with all its heart.

*continued on page 3...*

## Stamps for Missions

Save your cancelled postage stamps to help purchase Bible teaching materials for missions. You can place the stamps with the postmark and part of the envelope attached in the postage decorated box in the Fellowship Hall. Verna Magnus will collect, sort, and send the stamps to an organization that sells the cancelled stamps to collectors. The money collected is used to purchase teaching materials for missions. This is a creative way to help missions that we can all participate in. So, start clipping those postage stamps!



# ALPHA Update...

## Does God Heal Today?

During each Alpha course the topic Does God Heal Today is addressed during a teaching video followed by a time of ministry where participants can receive prayer for anything but prayers for healing are encouraged. Alpha group leaders and staff members are available to pray for those who request prayer. The "healing evening" as it is referred to is open to everyone. This ministry evening is June 6th with the video beginning at 7:00 followed by prayer at 7:45. To participate in this evening I would recommend that you attend the video session as well as the time of prayer.

## Alpha Weekend Away May 13th, 14th and 15th Holiday Inn Express in Houghton Lake

If you weren't able to attend the weekend away of the Alpha course you attended you are invited to attend this weekend away. Simply call the Holiday Inn Express at 989422-7829 to make reservations; ask for the managers special and tell them you are with the Brown Corners Church group for the rate of \$59.95 plus tax per night. Call the church office at 386-2702 to let us know you are coming and for weekend details.



# Alpha



## A Mother's Love

There are times when only a Mother's love  
Can understand our tears,  
Can soothe our disappoints  
And calm all of our fears.  
There are times when only a Mother's love  
Can share the joy we feel  
When something we've dreamed about  
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a Mother's faith  
Can help us on life's way  
And inspire in us the confidence  
We need from day to day.

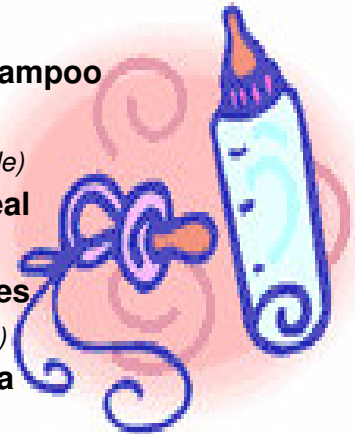
For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith  
And a Mother's steadfast love  
Were fashioned by the Angels  
And sent from God above...

- Author Unknown

## Baby Items Needed

Central Michigan Pregnancy Service of Mt. Pleasant is currently in need of the following items for the "Earn While You Learn" parenting program:

- Pull-Ups
- Bassinett/Crib Sheets
- Baby Wash/Lotion/Shampoo
- Car Seats (*new only*)
- Nursing pads (*disposable*)
- Baby Food/Baby Cereal
- Disposable Diapers
- Disposable Baby Wipes
- Breast Pumps (*new only*)
- Similac w/iron Formula
- Bottles (*new 8oz*)
- Infant & Toddler Clothing (*new or slightly used*)



Donations may be made at Brown Corners Church between now and the end of May.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Crawford at 386-9274.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Karen Crawford

## Prayerwalk at Clare Public Schools Update



On Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Prayer Team led a walk around the Clare Schools despite the miserably cold and windy

day. Ten of us met at Clare Big Boy and enjoyed breakfast and fellowship before starting out. Carol shared a story of one church that tried prayerwalking in their neighborhood and within a few months changed that neighborhood from one characterized by 10 gangs and 6 crackhouses to one without one crackhouse and only one gang, the "Jesus gang".

We divided into three teams, so each team was responsible for walking and praying for one of the

three schools: elementary, middle school, or high school. Another three hardy walkers joined us at the high school parking lot. Those three joined the other two teams walking around the elementary and middle schools. We had prepared booklets with floor plans of the three schools with the names of teachers written on their classroom, a list of prayer requests, and suggested needs to pray for. A list of teachers, administrators and other staff at the school was supplied by Tammy Meyers.

Those who participated were positive about the experience (despite feeling like frozen popsicles by the time we had completed the walk) and talked of doing it again, perhaps in late summer before school starts again.

## National Day of Prayer

Please join us at...

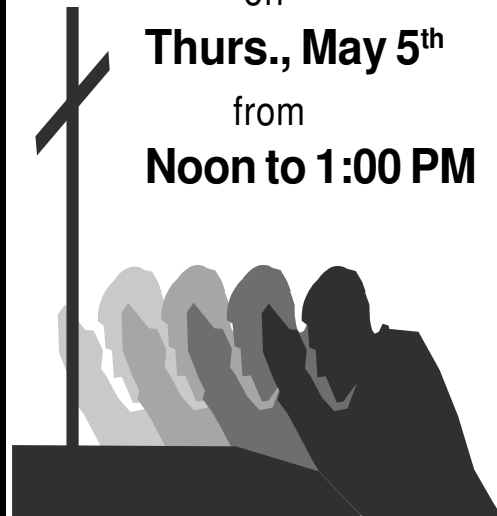
**Clare United  
Methodist Church  
107 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street**

on

**Thurs., May 5<sup>th</sup>**

from

**Noon to 1:00 PM**



## Use Frustrations as Opportunities to Pray



An article in "Pray," magazine by Marty Bullis of Philipsburg, Pennsylvania, recently said that

"Central to prayer is the need for attentiveness to God's voice. But so many things disrupt our concentration. We can control some things in our environment. We can turn off the TV, the car radio and the cell phone in order to have time for silence and prayer. But there are other distractions

over which we have little control."

The author went on to discuss email spam and highway advertising as two such distractions which disrupt attempts to pray. Certain emails disgust and reading all that advertising can stir up lust for things.

She suggests, "transforming the objects around us into prayer markers, taking these opportunities for frustration and making them opportunities for prayer. For example, what could happen if

spam messages generated prayer rather than disgust? Instead of complaining, I can pray for people who are enslaved by the pornography and get-rich schemes that spam advances. How many other frustrations can become objects of attentive prayer—overturned garbage cans, reckless drivers, cranky children, loose banister knobs, clogged drains? Transformation of our minds can change how we view and pray for the world around us.

Carol Hampton,  
Prayer Coordinator

*"Thoughts from the Pastor" continued from page 2...*

The warmth that attracts comes from us, the people of the church. The way we live our lives outside the church is what makes people want to be in our church. The way we treat them when they come to the church makes them want to come again. Are there ways we can help them want to remain with us? Of course, there are. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Consider yourself the host and go out of your way to notice a new face. Go and welcome them and invite them to your Sunday School class, or to your Small Group.
2. Ask them what brought them to BCUB. They came for a reason, so it's only polite to ask and see if there is any way to help. (If a person came to your house, you would assume they had a reason to come besides sitting and watching TV with you, wouldn't you?)

3. Help them find places for their kids. Grab Bill Stough or Leota Farrell and ask which class the visitors kids might attend.

4. Be genuinely friendly, not as a job. Invite someone to lunch with you.

Suppose you invited a friend to church and had told them what wonderful people attended your church. When they came, you would like those wonderful people to be wonderful, wouldn't you? I have found that every person who attended BCUB for the first time had a friend here who had influenced them to come. You need to be that wonderful person to them. After all, that's how you want others to treat your friend, isn't it?

Light and warmth aren't the only factors to a church's growth, though. There are others that are less spiritual that are important, too. Seating capacity, available

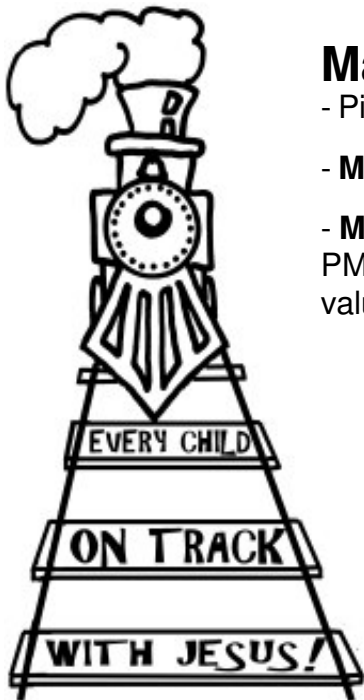
parking spaces, adequate programming, opportunities for service and involvement, and good information are all important, too. It is the light and warmth, however, which drive them.

We want BCUB to do its part in reaching our area for Christ, and living the truth in love is the way we do so. Each of us is the host for those who come. It's our job to pay more attention to the needs of others than to our own. We need to break away from conversations with friends so that we can greet a visitor. We need to keep a sharp eye out for a new face, so that we can welcome them to BCUB. We who live the truth and love others are the reason people attend the first time. We need to be attentive to their needs so they find the answers to life's questions, not because we seek growth, but because we seek to honor Christ and those He sends our way.

*Pasta Nelson*

e-mail: cmalson22@hotmail.com

## Children's Ministry News



### Mark your Calendars...

- Pioneer Club begins at 6:00 PM Sunday evenings.
- **May 8<sup>th</sup>**: No meeting
- **May 22<sup>nd</sup>**: End of Year Awards Program at 6:30 PM. Be sure and attend to show our children we value them and are proud of their accomplishments.

### End of the Year Party for Pioneer Club

- The year end **party for Pioneer Club** will be either **May 14<sup>th</sup>** or the **21<sup>st</sup>**. Watch for final details later in the bulletin and/or a note sent home with your child.

### Vacation Bible School

- **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**: A VBS meeting at 7:00 PM at the church. Please attend if you are going to be involved in VBS. The dates for VBS are June 20-24 from 9:00-11:00 AM.

### Beginning June 5<sup>th</sup>

the Children's Sunday evening program will start at **6:30 PM** when the adult service begins. This schedule will continue until Pioneer Club starts in the fall again.



Brown Corners Church  
of United Brethren in Christ

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## News & Dates to Remember . . .

### WILD KINGDOM

For upcoming events see page 2.

#### May 2005 Meetings

Tuesday, May 10th

7:00 PM.....Teams Meet

7:45 PM.....Prayer

8:15 PM.....Ad Board Meets

#### May 3rd

VBS Meeting at the church  
7:00 PM

#### May 5th

National Day of Prayer  
Clare United Methodist Church  
Noon - 1:00 PM

#### May 7th

Mother & Daughter Banquet  
11:00 A. M.-1:00 PM

#### May 8th

Mother's Day

#### May 14th OR 21st

"Pioneer Clubs End of Year Party"  
(watch bulletin for more news)

#### May 13th - 15th

Alpha Weekend Away

#### Will Work for Bus!

The Youth Group is trying to raise money for the bus to creation by doing work for people in the church. We have completed 14 projects and are ready for more. To hire the youth, call Pastor Steve, 386-2702.

**Camp forms** are available on welcome tables around the church. If you can't find a form see Pastor Steve.

#### May 15th

High School Graduate Recognition Day  
(during Worship service)

#### May 21st

Annual "Walk for Life"  
2-5:00 PM  
Island Park in Mt. Pleasant

#### May 25th

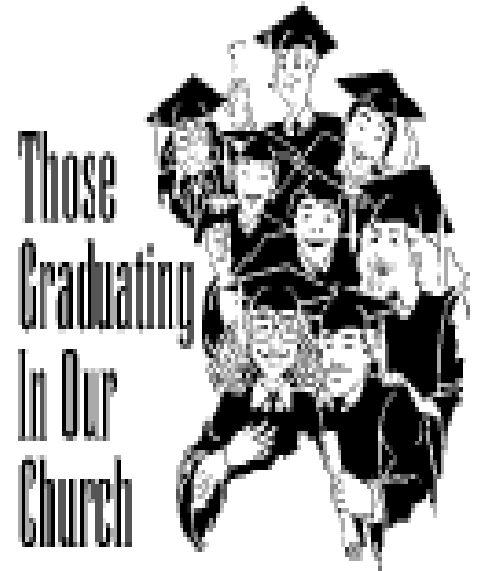
Small Group Banquet  
7-9:30 PM  
Island Park in Mt. Pleasant

#### May 30th

Memorial Day

#### June 4th

Seminar at Brown Corners  
Everyone is encouraged to attend  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Cost \$20



### High School Graduate Recognition Day

May 15<sup>th</sup> (during Worship service)

### Attention Graduates:

If you have an Open House you would like to have placed in the church bulletin, contact the church secretary, Donna Schoenhals, at 386-2702.