



REAL JOY
COMMUNITY
FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

From Pastor Tony

Wow! The positive response from everyone about the newsletter was amazing! I want to thank the staff for putting it together. We are planning to publish the newsletter at least quarterly but more likely every other month. And when occasions arise to make it necessary we will go to a monthly newsletter to keep everyone informed.

I really need to make a big plea to all of our members to please help out in our children's department. We are in need of several more people to serve our Lord and Savior in this area. One of the main reasons many people start going to church is so that they can get their children in church. In fact many young adults will only join a church that has a good children's and youth program. The best time to reach a child for the Lord is when they are between the ages of 7 to 12. As they get older they are involved in other programs and the ability to reach them with the Gospel of Christ drops significantly. So please see Ms. Tami to sign up even if it is to be a helper. We are running 20 to 30 children each week in children's worship and all of them need to be told and shown the love of God.

As the weather starts warming up that can only mean one thing. Softball is just around the corner. Yes we have men's and women's softball teams that play other churches around the area. It is a time where we all go out thinking in our minds that we are younger than we are until the morning after when the pain reminds us of how old we actually are! But really it is a lot of fun and fellowship. You do not need to be a member of the church to play. You just have to be over the age of 15 and attend church at least 3 times a month to be eligible to play. We like to place emphasis on weekly attendance though. And let me say thanks to the faithful fans for coming and cheering us on!

While talking about softball and mentioning membership I have been asked a lot of questions on what does it take to be a member of REAL JOY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP. I encourage people who have questions to read the highlight article in this newsletter about becoming a member of REAL JOY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP. Many of your questions might possibly be answered when you read it. However, if they are not answered do not hesitate to ask one of our deacons about how to become a member. They are Chairman Keith Hurley, and Deacon Ralph Letsche.

I would like to close my part of this newsletter by giving praise to God for what He is doing here at REAL JOY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP! Only God can do what is being done here. The concern for me is this: when God brings us to a mountaintop experience we need to be ready to battle Satan. He is alive and well and hates to see young churches become so vibrant and reaching the un-churched. So beware stay close to God so that He can spread His wings over us to protect us from the attacks of the evil one. And as always the people of this church are so near and dear to Trisha and me, keep us in your daily prayers. Without Him we are nothing. God Bless!

Pastor Tony

From Pastor Bob and the Youth Department

They say time flies when you're having fun! All I know is that the month of February was a complete blur. Two new things have begun in the Youth group both on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday nights.

We have started reading and studying in the book of Romans during Bible study each Sunday morning at 10:00, I am blown away by Paul's teaching as he shares the message of God's grace. It is mind boggling to really focus on a gift that I couldn't earn and don't deserve; yet God gives it so willingly! Bible study is a great time to plug in and get your week started right.

On Wednesday nights we meet at 6:30 where Karyn has been a huge help with starting things rolling as we have started the "Experiencing God" series. It takes teens on an interesting journey that shows that God desires to speak to us and move through us so that we can impact a lost and dying world around us.

We carry the hope for our generation inside our hearts, and God wants to use our lives, and our abilities to make a difference. Stop out and get in on the discussion. Also, April holds a few surprises for us, April 23rd we will be going to Columbus for a day of Laser Tag! We will have more details and a sign up sheet posted March 26th. We always have a good time, but it would be even better if you joined us!!

From Brady and the Music Department

February was a great month! The week of Valentines Day was unique to recall the love that God has for us. God has truly blessed with a love that is incomparable. The aspect that we often forget as we go throughout life is that God is constantly showing us his mercy and grace and we often overlook it. The beauty of the Lord is all around us. It just takes a moment to stop and look around to see beauty in creation. God loves us in a way that no human ever could. Let us never forget to praise him.

February was not just about love but we also started seeing some new faces on the stage. I am very excited to have some new people joining us. We are broadening our horizons with a variety of singers and musicians. I am very excited for this month to be able to utilize the gifts God has given some new members to the worship team. May that also be an opportunity for anyone else out there – we are always looking for more musicians and singers.

Now it doesn't seem like another month has already gone by but March is here and hopefully some warmer weather is too. This month is looking to be an exciting month as well. One event that you will not want to miss is on March 27. In the evening service Marty Ford and his band (Marty Ford Experience or MFE) will be coming to lead our

worship. They are a great guys and I have even had the pleasure being a fill-in for them a few times when they have needed a bass player. Also that night Bob, our youth pastor, will be delivering the message. I am very excited for the evening and you will definitely not want to be found anywhere else.

Lastly, moving from February to March signifies one thing...Spring. Not only is there a seasonal change but I also believe that spring-cleaning should be taking place in our spiritual lives. What I mean is this, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come!”* As Christians we are in constant need of change. We are cars that are constantly breaking down. Once we fix one problem another comes along. We are never going to be free of error until we are with God. In anticipation of that time we must be cleaning our hearts of all impurities and working hard to be more like Christ. Spring cleaning this month is being so grateful for the love that we received that we do something about it – get rid of the sin that separates us from God. Ephesians 4:31&32 – *“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”* We have experienced the love of God and that is something to give him praise for. That is what we are here for.



The MFE →

From Tami and the Children's Department

Hi all!! I am so excited about spring!! Baby goats, ducks, turkeys, little baby bunnies, and peepers in the pond!!!! God's creation is so wonderful!!! It is exciting to watch things grow, including our children. We will be outside flying kites Sunday March 27. I hope everyone can join us! See the flier for details.

Just a reminder to our workers, please try to get your background checks turned in as soon as possible. We need to have those on file for the church. Thanks

Spot Light Article of the Month

By Janet Ackley

Do you have a BRAG BOOK?

The thought hit me when I was visiting my mother's Florida church, the First Baptist Church in Sebring, Florida. The Pastor's message was geared specifically to the "church people". He asked us how often we get excited about our church and invite friends, neighbors and acquaintances to visit.

Well, I get excited about Real Joy all the time and am always telling people about our warm, loving church in a pole barn! Then the idea hit me. Many people carry around "Brag Books" about their grandchildren, hobbies, projects in the making, etc. I don't have any grandchildren yet...so what do I have to brag about.....REAL JOY! Pastor Tony has been working on a brochure so that when I go visit my neighbors this Spring and Summer (and I am going to visit every one), I can leave a brochure with them that tells about what Real Joy has to offer and take them something that I have just baked.

Reverend Bob is going to help me with pictures for my Brag Book and Pastor Tony the brochure to tell about Real and I will add the something baked and away I go....to brag about Real Joy. My road is England Hollow Road and it is going to be covered for Jesus Christ...with an *Invite to Real Joy*. How about your road? Is it covered? Let's reach one road at a time for Jesus. No brag book could hold all the blessings that Jesus has bestowed on me, so this is going to be fun.

Last, but not least, when my England Hollow visitors come to Real Joy, continue to make them feel special, because they chose Real Joy to come and worship. Please leave some end of the row seats for the late comers and the best parking spots for our special guest. Then just sit back and let God's blessings fill us!

Join me in sharing Real Joy. Janet Ackley

Membership

A lot of people have been asking what it takes to become a member of REAL JOY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP. Hopefully I will answer most of your questions in this article. If after reading this, you still have questions please see one of our deacons.

First of all for a person to become a member they must be a part of God's family, meaning that they have sometime in their life had a time where they asked Jesus Christ to come into their life and forgive them of their sins and to be their Lord and Savior. This is the first step into membership of the church, you must be a Christian.

The second question that will be asked of you is "have you ever been baptized by immersion?" This means completely covered up with water. The word baptize comes from the Greek word meaning to cover up to bury which means that we need to be totally covered in water. It draws the perfect picture of what is being said while the baptism is being performed. We are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in a newness of life. Our old life that was in the bondage of sin was crucified and buried and when we come out of the water we are showing that we have a new life in Christ. Many people including myself were sprinkled as a young child but later on we were immersed.

If you have asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and have not been baptized by immersion then you can become a member by baptism. Meaning we would set up a time for you to be baptized (immersed) that is convenient with you?

The third question is, "if were immersed when you were baptized do you believe that the baptism had anything to do with your salvation?" As Southern Baptist we believe that baptism has nothing to do with your salvation. We believe that you do not have to be baptized in order to go to heaven, although it is the first commandment for us to do once we place our trust in Him. So to please Him we should do so. Plus it shows publicly what has happened inside you.

If you agree that salvation is only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and you have been immersed in baptism previously then you can join the church by something called statement. You are stating that you are a follower of Christ and you have been baptized by immersion.

If you are currently a member of another Southern Baptist church you can just move your membership. This would be called coming by letter. We would contact the church where you're currently a member to ascertain that your membership is in "good standing". If it is, we would merely request that they move your letter of membership to Real Joy Community Fellowship. Transfer of letter from churches other than Southern Baptist would need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

One question asked to anyone who wants to join REAL JOY COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP is "Are you living a life that is pleasing to God and following Biblical standards of living?" In other words, is there anything in your life that if brought to light would bring dishonor to God and this church? If you can say "no, there isn't" then we would bring your name before the church to be voted on at the next business meeting, and if confirmed, you would become a member.

It is that easy. So if you would like to be a member just come forward during invitation and let me know that you would like to join the church.