

Do We Have Anything to Offer?



March
2005

New Sterling Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Stirling

During my preparations for the Spring Sr High Retreat I ran across a series of comments given by young adults across the country after being asked what they wished the Church offered. After reading and pondering them for some time I decided to ask you. Do we, New Sterling, have anything to offer the young adults portrayed in these comments?

Here are their comments after being asked the question, 'what do you wish the Christian Church offered?'

"I want to be able to go to church and bring myself – sin and doubt in tow. I want to be able to say, 'I struggle with depression. How can you help me?' Don't quote me a bunch of verses I already know. Show me."

Lisa, 23

"I wish the church offered a place where people could really be themselves before they have a personal relationship with Christ. Most churches are places where people most caught up in sin don't feel comfortable going unless they put on their 'church' faces to hide their real selves."

Carl, 29

"My one wish would be that Christians would take what Jesus did and said seriously enough for it to impact how they live their daily lives."

Tom, 26

"I wish the church was more open about sex. Many have not lived up to the standard God has set before us. We are physically dying because we believe the false stereotypes about sex that we are constantly shown in the media."

Quentin, 28

"I'd like to see less hypocrisy and more opportunity for younger, Spirit-led Christians to take part in leadership."

Edwin, 25

"I'd like to see a church full of believers who are so on fire for God that it's contagious. Those believers are in the church if I look for them, but I'd love to see the church saturated with them. And worship that doesn't care about self but instead ignites the soul to glorify God."

Dana, 29

"I wish that Christians would be committed to following Christ and not their own agendas plus Christ on the side. I wish that the church would be tough on sin but gracious to the sinner. Most of all, I wish that the church would truly challenge young people to know the Word and know it well."

Andrea, 23

"I would love to have a church where I would be proud to bring my non-Christian friends because they would be made welcome."

Jeremy, 24



This age group is one of the hardest to reach within the church and it is one of the more crucial. Through some persistent efforts by several within our church we have been able to sustain a young adult class and I applaud them. This age group is faced with many challenges that occupy much of their time and interests so we need to be especially mindful of their needs.

But I want to also to bring into play the Jr & Sr High age groups as well. Many of them would have similar responses as these given here. So, the way we respond to these comments for our Jr & Sr Highers will go a long way preparing them and us for when they do become young adults. Once again I ask the question, but now I ask it to the specific individuals within our church who

week - Do we have anything to offer the young people portrayed in these comments?

As I speak to the Sr High Retreat March 4-6 it will part of my intention to address the leaders of this age group to help them be more alert to the needs and desires of the people sitting in front of them each week.

We are living in a post modern, post Christian culture which means our children are growing up with much different challenges that what we faced. But there is a bright spot and I personally think it is very significant. The less than 30 year old age group are said to be more spiritual than the older generations ever were. That means they are open to other-worldly answers to their issues. This gives us an opening to share the gospel. But this also means they are open to all types of

other-worldly influences. Some will be just as open to Eastern mysticism as they are Christianity. In fact, some are more open to Eastern mysticism because they have seen a 'false' Christianity lived out by their parents and they don't want anything to do with it.

We have a wonderful time before us to share the message of love and hope but we must know how to communicate with the Xer and Millennial generations or they will close us out forever. I pray that we at New Sterling will take seriously the needs of the generations that are growing up quickly and that we will be wise and proactive in responding to their needs.

In His Service,
Pastor Tim



We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1Thessalonians 1:2-3

The Thessalonians had stood firm when they were persecuted. Paul commended these young Christians for their work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope. These characteristics are the marks of effective Christians in any age.

The Golden Christian Circle will meet on Monday March 7, 2005 at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Pauline Charles and Florence Brookshire will be hostesses.

The Dorothy Dagenhart Circle will meet on Monday March 14, 2005 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Juanita Massey and Terry Hoke will be hostesses. Marilyn Teague will have the devotional and Harriet Linderman will have the Bible study for both circles.

We have several things going on this month. There is World Day of Prayer on March 3 and we will take our Week of Prayer offering at our meetings this month. The Sterling Silvers Luncheon will be held on March 14. Palm Sunday is March 20; Maundy Thursday, March 24 and Easter Sunday is March 27. Remember you Secret Sister this month also.

Happy St. Patricks Day!

Hallelujah He is Risen!

Shelby Bustle
WOC President



Bonclarken Gift Shop Needs Our Help!

It's time to put the notorious creativity of New Sterling members to work! The Bonclarken Gift Shop

needs special hand-crafted items to sell. The gift shop generates much needed income for Bonclarken. Need some ideas? Here are some gift shop items that sell well: crafts with "Bonclarken" or "ARP" on them, framed Bible verses, napkins, angel crafts, wooden cross necklaces, Christmas decorations, baby gifts, Christian comic books, board games, afghans, abeled homemade canned goods, or handmade wooden items. Make "new and different items" you think have potential, and "tried and true items" that you know sell well. Please put a suggested price on the items you make based on how much it cost you to make them. Bring your handmade crafts to the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 10. The gifts will be sent to Bonclarken with our church members who go to help on the workdays Scheduled for April 11-15. If you have any questions, ask Linda Harper. Thank you!!

On February 11, 12, and 13 a group of extraordinary women traveled to Cherry Grove for a women's retreat. This group of women included: Sherry Clarke, Betty Sides, Marcia Winters, Jill Hagar, Viki Hagar, Erin Waugh, Kitzi Emery, Peggy Gray, Cindy McNeely, Pat Price, Kim Brady, Lori Compton, Betty Godfrey, Jeannette Hauck, Julie Winters, Valerie Baggett, Cora Poovy, Susan Pugh, Judy Watson, Jessica Graham, Michelle Hairyes, Kelley Miller and Taryn Mauney. While away we studied "Intimacy with the Almighty", by Charles Swindoll, which taught us four spiritual disciplines: simplicity, solitude, silence and surrender.



Together we shared, laughed and cried. New friendships were formed and old friendships made stronger. God worked through Judy Watson, our study leader in helping us realize that our lives are cluttered, scattered and in a hurry. To stop and think, what are some less important areas in our lives that we can change to allow time for things more precious and make life simpler? We realized that quiet time with God will strengthen our relationship with him. Let the outside noise of the world escape and disappear. Just sit, have a cup of coffee, write in a journal or take a walk outside to give God that time to refocus and be more attentive to him.

By taking this weekend to STOP and listen, we discovered that silence is OK. One of my favorite quotes from our study states, "We sometimes worry so much about what to say we don't stop to consider if we should even be speaking at all." While a group of us played cards Saturday night, a song played on the CD player and touched our hearts. It tied into the purpose of our weekend perfectly. We shared it with the group the next morning and I am going to share it with you now.

Word of God Speak

By Mercy Me

I'm finding myself at a loss
for words
And the funny thing is it's
OK
The last thing I need is to be
heard
But to hear what You would
say

I'm finding myself in the
midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond
the noise
All I need is to be with You
And in the quiet hear Your
voice

Oh word of God speak
Would you fall down like
rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That Your in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
Word of God speak.

I'm finding myself at a loss
for words
And the funny thing is it's
OK.

Love In Christ,
Taryn



WOMEN'S RETREAT

**We need to find
God, and he cannot
be found in
noise and rest-
lessness. God is
the friend of si-
lence.**

**See how nature—
trees, flowers,
grass—grows in
silence; see the
stars, the moon,
and the sun, how
they move in si-
lence...**

**We need silence to
be able to touch
souls.**

Mother Teresa

Here and There

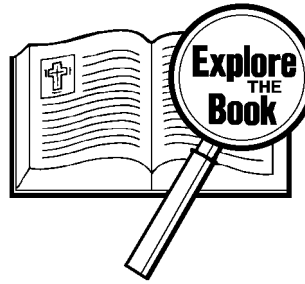
Jeremy Brady is the proud owner of a new dachshund puppy, Sparky... **Ronda and Terry Hoke** traveled to Las Vegas recently for a hardware show... **Mara Hairyes** was disciplined at her daycare for fighting with two boys. I guess we won't have to worry about her taking care of herself!... **Jared Hauck and Cody Hairyes** had a head on collision playing flag football during recess at school. **Cody** ended up with a black eye... **Scotti and Todd** threw **Dylan Deal** a surprise party for her 13th Birthday! It was held at Fun Station where there was a DJ, dancing and about 50 friends who came to help her celebrate... **Kelli Johnson** celebrated her 13th birthday by inviting about nine friends to go to the movies with her... **Dale and Juanita Massey** recently took an 8 day trip to Canada with Christian Tours. They toured the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Scottish Rites Cathedral in Indiana. They Mennonite Center, The Auburn-Cord Duesenburg Museum, the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and many other points of interest. While in Canada, they took a day trip on the Canadian Snow Train and a sleigh ride in the countryside with two feet of snow. Of special interest, was crossing over the Great Lakes, which were completely frozen over The Youth Shepherds once again, had a successful Spaghetti Supper at Café Sterlini. Many of our church family attended as well as several welcomed guests. In special attendance, were the ladies of the Red Hat Club. During the evening though, several men were also seen wearing these hats! ??? Rick Cashion once again out-did himself with a wonderful spaghetti sauce. Thanks to all the youth who helped. Everyone left happy and stuffed! It's always a special evening that we look forward to... **Women's Retreat News**...It seems that the women had time on their weekend away for Beach Olympic games. Several can attest that swinging a tennis ball out of a pair of panty hose is much harder than it looks!...Mama Bird **Jessica Graham** and Mama Bird **Julie Winters** learned how to feed their babies...Apples to Apples was the card game of choice for the weekend...**Cindy McNeely** thinks that "mold" is delicious...Intelligence is a new word for **Janette Hauck**...While at the retreat, **Judy Watson** received a basket of flowers for Valentine's Day from **Pastor Tim** (other husbands should take note)...It was also learned that the ladies could not go through one weekend without shopping at Wal-



They stopped on their way home to shop!...When asked about other newsworthy news, I received only giggles and smiles!

Remember that families share trips, events and fun things going on in their lives with each other. Keep

passing those notes to me so I can list these in our newsletter. It is so interesting to see what everyone is doing! Baseball and softball are gearing up as well as Spring and Summer vacations. There will be lots to share! Scotti



"If you continue in my word...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." —Jesus

(John 8:31-32 RSV).

March 1	Numbers 14-15; Psalms 90
March 2	Numbers 16-17
March 3	Numbers 18-20
March 4	Numbers 21-22
March 5	Numbers 23-25
March 6	Numbers 25-27
March 7	Numbers 28-30
March 8	Numbers 31-32
March 9	Numbers 33-34
March 10	Numbers 35-36
March 11	Deuteronomy 1-2
March 12	Deuteronomy 3-4
March 13	Deuteronomy 5-7
March 14	Deuteronomy 8-10
March 15	Deuteronomy 11-13
March 16	Deuteronomy 14-16
March 17	Deuteronomy 17-20
March 18	Deuteronomy 21-23
March 19	Deuteronomy 24-27
March 20	Deuteronomy 28-29
March 21	Deuteronomy 30-31
March 22	Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 91
March 23	Joshua 1-4
March 24	Joshua 5-8
March 25	Joshua 9-11
March 26	Joshua 12-15
March 27	Joshua 16-18
March 28	Joshua 19-21
March 29	Joshua 22-24



We would like to do some featured articles on the members of New Sterling. Each month we will feature families, couples, senior citizens or youth. We will pass out some questionnaires for you to fill out so we

can complete the articles. We will randomly pick who will be featured each month. We hope this will help us all know more about our church family.

THE BILL MAUNEY FAMLY

Bill and Delinda were married on June 6, 1979, 26 years ago. Bill was born in Perry, Oklahoma but moved here with his parents when he was young and grew up in Troutman. His mother still lives in Troutman. He has 2 brothers and 1 sister. He is a graduate of South Iredell High School. For many years he worked as a carpenter but health issues forced him to move to a less strenuous job. He now works with the maintenance department of the Iredell Statesville School System. His hobbies include deer hunting and watching Discovery or the History Channel on TV.

Delinda has always lived in Stony Point and has been a life long member of New Sterling. Her mother and father are Lynn and Muriel Jenkins, also members of New Sterling. She has 2 sisters, Scotti and Michelle. She also graduated from South Iredell High School and from Catawba Valley Technical Institute. She has worked in the medical field since graduation in an administrative capacity. Currently she works for Catawba Valley Internal Medicine in Hickory. Her hobbies include reading and crocheting.

Their daughter Taryn was born 22 years ago. She is a graduate of West Iredell High School and a graduate of Mitchell College School of Nursing. She currently works at Davis Regional Medical Center on the Med/Surg floor as an RN. She currently is engaged to Brian Setzer and is planning an October wedding. Her main hobby now is crocheting.

Clifton is presently a senior at West Iredell High School. He has played several sports during his high school career but baseball is his favorite. He is currently gearing up for his senior varsity season to begin soon. He plays short stop for the team. He plans on going to college after high school but current plans are incomplete.

Brent is a junior at West Iredell High School. He also has played several sports during high school but has excelled in Cross Country.



Most of our spare time has been spent at sporting events watching our children. Now we will add planning a wedding to that list. We also have 2 pets, a fat cat named Miss Mia and a Yorkie named Spencer.

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
Acts 20:28

LYNN AND MURIEL JENKINS

Lynn and Muriel met when Muriel was in Nursing School at Davis Hospital. They dated, fell in love and married in Deridder, Louisiana while Lynn was in the United States Army. They have been married for 53 years and have lived in Stony Point most of that time.

They have 3 daughters, Delinda, Scotti and Michelle and 7 grandchildren, Taryn, Clifton, Brent, Dylan, Garrett, Cody and Mara. After raising their own girls most of their time now is spent helping raise their grandchildren which is a job I don't think they mind.



Lynn worked for many years with his father and brothers as a brick mason. After medical problems forced him to change careers he worked for Davis Oil Company in many capacities for a number of years and retired from there in 1991. Since then he has been

working hard at home and helping other folks in the community with building projects, laying brick, farming, etc. His main source of fun right now is attending the flea market on Thursdays. Lynn is a life long member of New Sterling and has served on many committees, served as a Deacon and is currently an Elder and has been a choir member for more years than we can count. He is an active member of the West Iredell Ruitan Club.

Muriel grew up in Newton, NC. She moved here when she and Lynn were married. She is a graduate of Davis Hospital School of Nursing and has just recently retired from her profession last year. She has been a long time member of New Sterling and has served in many capacities as Nursery School Director, a teacher of Junior Highs for 31 years, served on various committees, helped with Bible school, was a 1977 recipient of a life membership from the Women of the Church, and currently is the maker of the Communion bread.

Besides attending sporting events for the grandchildren, Lynn and Muriel are avid Atlanta Braves fans and spend much time in the summer watching Braves baseball. In the winter months they are North Carolina Tarheel fans. Several days during the week, they go to Delinda and Bill's house and pick up Spencer (The Yorkie) and take him to their house to play and visit.

Brian Setzer

Brian Setzer is 26 years old and lives in Claremont. He recently joined New Sterling in April 2004. His previous church was Bethel United Methodist off Lookout Dam Road, where his mother, Sandy Setzer and father George "Cotton" Setzer attend. He is engaged to Taryn Mauney. They have dated for six years and are currently planning a wedding for October 8th 2005.

Brian is a graduate of Bunker Hill High School and Appalachian State University where he received a degree in Psychology. He is currently a manager at CVS pharmacy in Mountain View.

In November 2003 Brian and Taryn bought a house in Claremont where Brian currently resides and will both live in once they are married.

He loves the Miami Dolphins and UNC Tarheel basketball. His favorite N A S C A R driver is Rusty Wallace. He loves playing basketball, snow skiing and playing play station. He dislikes are shopping, mushy movies and DUKE. His favorite movie is Top Gun. Favorite places to eat are Memaws (especially her meatloaf), Outback and Carrabas.





Sunday Family Nights: Conversations with Jesus.

I have read the biblical accounts of Jesus' life many times as recorded in the Gospels. I have read volumes of books discussing his life. Recently, however I have been trying to be more conscious of and studying more intently the actual style and method of Jesus' conversations, his teaching and his encounters with people. He had a unique style.

In seminary Dr. Kik spent a lot of time encouraging us to preach like Jesus preached. His style differs a great deal from say, Paul's style. Paul was more rational with details, in-depth explanations and logical arguments. Jesus on the other hand spoke big picture, right-brained. He spoke in parables, he used word pictures, and his language was much simpler, easier for the people to absorb.

At different times of course each style is needed. I try, underline try, to use both at different times and in different ways. But I have become more and more intrigued with Jesus' style of conversing with people. He knew his listener well and spoke to them in ways that captured them. He spoke to them using contemporary

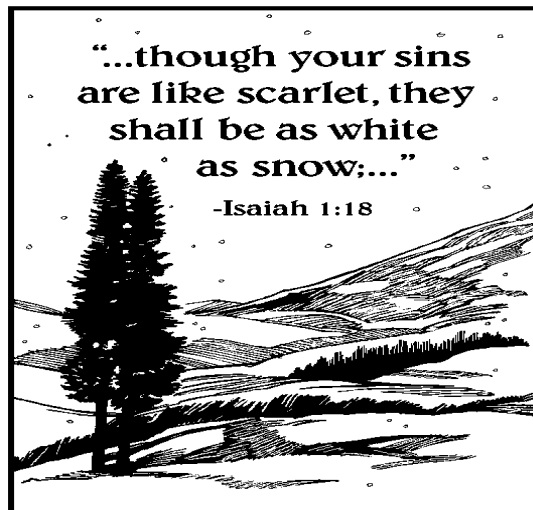
issues and their place in them. He didn't coddle, he didn't placate and usually he met them squarely face to face – showing mercy and understanding where needed and being very stern when called for. We must be open to these styles and the messages that came with each style.

So I hope you don't mind but I am going to involve you a little in my study process. On March 13 we will begin Family Nights and I want to discuss 'The Conversations of Jesus.' I will be using a book by one of my professors, Simon Kistemaker, to facilitate our study. I want us to obviously be open to his messages but I want us to be more conscious of his styles and how they differ from time to time and person to person.

In the near future we are going to have a sermon series on Sunday mornings concerning evangelism and more particularly 'lifestyle evangelism.' That means we evangelize people with our lives, our words and our conversations with them. So, I want us to learn from the best.

So I invite you to come and join us on Sunday Nights at 6:00 for Family Nights and let's study the conversation styles of Jesus.

*In His Service,
Pastor Tim*





The Deacons of New Sterling ARP Church met on Feb. 13, 2005 at 6:00 PM. The following items were discussed:

- Quotes are being secured for putting vinyl siding on the painted areas of the fellowship hall and Mary Tatum Moore Educational Building.
 - The new tables for the fellowship hall will be purchased before our Sunday Night Program begins. It was decided to give four of the existing fellowship hall tables to a new needy church in Statesville and make the rest available to members of New Sterling.
 - Deacons will be contacting congregational members to determine special needs that may exist.
 - Approval was given to begin work on a New Sterling web site, pending Session approval. (The Session has also approved.)
 - Chair and table arrangement charts will be made to help Deacons and others set-up the fellowship hall for regular usage and special events.
- Deacons are working on the lack-of-heat problem in the nursery.
 - The unsteady changing table in the nursery will be repaired soon.
 - A key is being made to replace the lost key to the cabinet in the nursery.
- Two quotes for improving the sanctuary sound system were shared. Additional quotes will be obtained while options are being considered.

You Took My Place

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up near and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!"

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change.

Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet.

Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?"

The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

- 1 Dot Dagenhart
- 1 DJ Nugent
- 2 Rachel Gray
- 4 Laura Bailey
- 4 Jim Hartness
- 4 Joe Jenkins
- 4 Wesley Jenkins
- 4 Pat Sherrill
- 5 Jessica Burruel
- 5 Tim Watson
- 6 Darrell Elliott
- 6 Erin Waugh
- 7 Rick Bustle
- 9 Leah Gryder
- 9 Michelle Hansley
- 11 Brian Caldwell
- 11 Floyd Levan
- 11 Taryn Mauney
- 13 Amy Gray
- 13 Brianna Henderson
- 14 Todd Winters
- 15 Gary Goodman
- 15 Matthew Moose



- 16 Tim Hager
- 16 Dylan Hartness
- 16 Charles Pope
- 20 Nolan Winters
- 22 Wendy Pope
- 23 Sue Fulbright
- 23 Alan Reavis
- 23 Gary Reavis
- 23 Steve Yount
- 25 Betty Levan
- 25 Birchie Pope
- 25 Wayne Waugh
- 26 Ruth Foy
- 27 Robert Boggs
- 27 Cindy Hardin
- 28 Josh Burruel
- 28 Hunter Hansley
- 28 Julia Massey
- 28 Johnny Shoemaker
- 29 Libby Brooks
- 31 Kristal Harding
- 31 Cindy McNeely
- 31 Judy Morrison

OVERHEARD AT THE COUNTRY CAFE

A man was driving down a country road one day when a three-legged chicken ran past him like it was standing still. Amazed, he followed it into a farmyard driveway and knocked on the door of the farmhouse.

"Is that your three-legged chicken?" he asked the lady who answered the door.

"Yes," she replied. "We think legs and thighs are the best part of the chicken, so we've been working on breeding them for years."

"I'm impressed," the man admitted. "So how do they taste?"

"I don't know. We've never caught one."

If your birthday has not been listed or you are not sure if you are on the list, please contact Delinda or Taryn and we will be happy to check for you. We want to make sure we do not miss anyone.

Coming Events

- March 1 9:30 Golden Christian Circle
- March 2 6:30 Youth Shepherds & Adult Class
7:30 Adult Choir
- March 3 World Day of Prayer
- March 4-6 Senior High Retreat
- March 6 7:00 Deacons Meet
- March 7 Sterling Slivers Luncheon
- March 9 6:30 Youth Shepherds & Adult Class
7:30 Adult Choir
- March 13 Session Meeting
6:00 Sunday Family Night Begins
- March 14 7:00 Dorothy Dagenhart Circle
- March 16 6:30 Youth Shepherds and Adult Class
7:30 Adult Choir

- March 19 4:00 Youth Shepherd BBQ & Auction
- March 20 PALM SUNDAY
Newsletter Deadline
6:00 Family Night
- March 22 7:00 Ladies Bible Study
- March 23 6:30 Youth Shepherds & Adult
Class
7:30 Adult Class
- March 24 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service
- March 25 7:30 Seekers Bible Study
- March 26 12:00 Easter Egg Hunt
- March 27 EASTER
- March 30 6:30 Youth Shepherds & Adult
Class