



# The Messenger

Garfield Park United Church of Christ Indianapolis

April 2010

Hope emerges

## *The rolling stone preaches*

On Palm Sunday, when the religious leaders were offended that Jesus was accepting praise from the crowd, they demanded that Jesus tell his disciples to stop. Jesus replied, “If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40).

### From Pastor Mark

I’ve always found it amusing to imagine the stones growing mouths to praise Jesus. But one very large stone preached a message of its own on Easter Sunday, without any mouth: “On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus” (Luke 24:1-3).

Why was the stone rolled away? In John 20 we read of Thomas physically touching Jesus’ hands and side (vs. 27), and yet Jesus was somehow able to pass through locked doors (vs. 26). The risen Jesus was no ghost, but he could miraculously walk through walls.

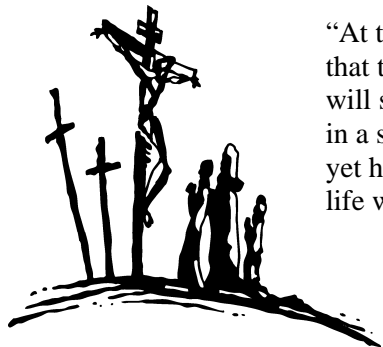
*So the stone wasn’t rolled away to let Jesus out of the tomb, but to let us in.* Had the stone remained, no one could have entered to find his body missing, to investigate the “scene.”

They could have met the risen Jesus, but without his body missing from the tomb, they might have thought him a ghost (they still did, but only temporarily). But Jesus has risen, both his body and his spirit, and this was the work of God.

Without a mouth, the stone speaks. Without a doubt, hope emerges.

-Pastor Mark

## The real meaning of the Cross



“At the cross we understand what God means when he talks of loving us, begin to take it in that there is nothing that he will not do, no sacrifice he will not make, no suffering that he will shirk, if only he can help us. ‘He loved me,’ said Paul, standing upon Calvary and gazing in a stunned way at the cross, ‘I who was a persecutor, and a blasphemer, and injurious, and yet he loved me and he gave himself for me.’ And with that [Paul’s] heart broke, and the old life was gone.”

—Scottish preacher Arthur John Gossip,  
in a 1926 sermon titled “What Happens at Calvary”

OUR PURPOSE: By faithful lives in Jesus’ community  
We strive to lead everyone to know and love God

# Teens have Taylor Youth Conference this month

On Sunday, April 18th right after church we will have lunch and go to the \$1.50 show.

## Teen's Team for Christ

It should be a afternoon of good fellowship.

The Taylor Youth Conference trip is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 23-25. This is always a great annual event for all youth to share. See Mark for more details.

Join us for a Blessed April!

Love Don & Sandy Young

p.s. Life is short, forgive quickly, love truly, laugh often.

Thanks to the  
Teen's Team  
for another  
fantastic  
Easter  
breakfast.  
  
We really  
appreciate it!



## Easter program on April 12

Join Young at Heart on April 12 for an Easter program presented by Pastor Mark.

Young at Heart Bring a friend, place setting, and well-filled dish and share a pleasant afternoon with us.

We have some wonderful programs, lunch and lots of friendly friends new and old. After a short business meeting (about 15 minutes) at noon, we play bingo.

Future meetings:

May 10: Candy & Ray - brother & sister singers

June 14: Jockish Florist by David Watt

July 12: Charlie Kemp entertaining with stories

August: Beef & Boards trip

## Work camps offer chance to help this summer

This summer, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC will offer another opportunity to help flood victims .

The conference is putting together two work camps:

- June 13-26 - Eastern Kentucky
- June 27-July 10 - Louisville

The cost of each is \$95 a week or \$20 a day.

If you're interested in attending — or interested in leading a team from Garfield Park UCC — contact Pastor Mark or Lesley Weidenbener, chair of the Ministry Alive Team.

If you'd like additional information about the camps, you can email Mary Anna Speller at [maryannaspeller@gmail.com](mailto:maryannaspeller@gmail.com) or call 736-8707.



## Summer camp dates

Planning your summer? There are lots of great options for kids this year at Merom. Here are the scheduled camps:

June 14-19	Faith Journeys	3rd-2010 grads
June 20-26	All Ages 2	3rd-2010 grads
June 20-26	Adventure Camp	high school & up
June 27-30	Grades 3-4-5	3-5th grades
June 30-July 4	Backstage Pass	8th-2010 grads
July 4-10	Creative Spirit	6th-2010 grads
July 7-10	Just You & Me Kid	4yrs & up
July 11-17	Tri-Level	4th-2010 grads
July 18-24	All ages 1&3	3rd-2010 grads

Go to [www.merom.org](http://www.merom.org) or find the Merom Conference Center on Facebook. You can also email questions to [summercamp@merom.org](mailto:summercamp@merom.org).

Thanks to  
everyone who  
purchased  
Easter lilies to  
beautify the  
church sanctuary  
for Easter.



**THOUGHTS: Christ is not valued at all — unless he is valued above all.**  
- St. Augustine



For  
Kids!

*A colorful*  
**CROSS**



Create a beautiful decoration for your window this Easter. It will remind you that Jesus rose from the dead to save you from your sins.

**What you need:**

- 8½" x 11" sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Clear transparency sheet (or clear report cover)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Colored tissue paper
- Paintbrush
- Glue
- Scotch tape

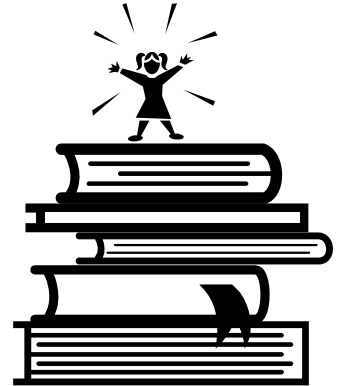
**What you do:**

1. Draw a large cross that takes up most of the paper.
2. Put the transparency over the paper and trace the cross onto it with a permanent marker.
3. Cut the colored tissue paper into 1" x 1" squares.
4. Using a paintbrush, spread glue onto the tissue paper squares and then place them on the cross. (Add a few drops of water to the white glue to make it more spreadable.)
5. After the glue is dry, cut out the cross. Then tape it in a window and enjoy the beautiful colors.

# New in the Library

Happy Easter! New items have been added to the Church Library. You will find the books on the Library Table in the Welcome Area during the month of April.

- Books for tweens – Mandie and the Holiday Surprise, Mandie and the Washington Nightmare, Mandie and the Midnight Journey, Mandie and the Shipboard Mystery, and Mandie and the Foreign Spies by Lois Gladys Leppard.
- Books for adults – The Blood of Lambs by Kamal Saleem, and Giving Her Wings by Dianne Perry.



## Radar praying

I was once told how radar works. The electronic unit used sends out radio waves. When the waves hit something, they bounce back and are displayed on a screen. That's similar to a helpful way I commune with God.

When I've spent some quiet time in his presence, I let my mind slowly start moving in a circle. I never know what will appear on my mind's "screen." Whatever comes up, I consider that I should give it attention.

Today, for example, the war in Afghanistan came up first. I prayed that hostility would cease, that children could go safely to school and that the government might respond to people's needs.

I moved on to other "pictures." My friend in Texas whose wife just died. Members of Congress who need God's guidance. Missionaries in hostile places. The unemployed, the homeless, the starving, the sick.

Such praying takes time. Sometimes your mind strays or "gets stuck." Allow God to direct your thoughts. When a "picture" comes up and feels God-directed, pray about the matter.

One more thing: Don't be surprised at the results. God may well indicate what your role could be in providing answers.



— Charles Ferrell

**THE WORD:** The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. — Proverbs 11:18 (NIV)

# *Youth is entrusted to the young*

There's an old joke that youth is wasted on the young. Financially, it's easy to back that up. According to tax information service CCH, for example, just 28 percent of workers younger than 25 are contributing to an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Of course, the best way to take advantage of the power of compound interest is to begin investing when you are young. However, for young people that can feel like an impossible time to begin investing. Incomes are low, the costs of **Financially Speaking** starting one's adult life are high, and besides, retirement is just some vague concept set far in the future. There will be time to get to that later.

Maybe all that's missing among the young is a little bit of financial knowledge. Here are two financial insights I wish someone had shared with me when I was younger.

First, learn the benefits of getting started early and the penalties for waiting. Use an online calculator to estimate the results of starting to invest at various ages. For example, if you invest \$200 a month starting at age 20, earn an average of 7 percent interest per year, and do that until age 70, you will end up with over \$1 million dollars. Wait until age 25 to get started and you'll end up with about \$300,000 less. Hold off until you're 30 and you'll lose out on \$500,000.

Here's another eye-opening illustration. Person A invests 200 per month starting at age 20 and then stops investing after 10 years. Person B waits until age 30 to begin investing \$200 per month and continues doing so for the next 40 years. Person A invests a total of \$24,000. Person B invests a total of \$96,000. Assuming a 7 percent annual return, at age 70 person A ends up with \$550,000 while person B ends up with \$500,000.

Now here's the second insight: As early as possible get in the habit of prioritizing your use of money properly. There are only five things you can do with money once you have some. You can spend it, use it for debt payments, save it, invest it, or give it away. And that's the order encouraged by our culture: use it for lifestyle spending first (where to live, what to drive, where to vacation), make the monthly debt payments that always seem to come with a lifestyle-first life, save and invest if there's anything left over, and then maybe throw a few bucks toward charity.

The far better order is to be generous with the first portion of any money received, save or invest the next portion, and then build your lifestyle on what remains.

What about debt? Never carry a balance on your credit cards, don't finance vehicles, and if you have education debt pay more than the minimum so that you can wipe out that debt as soon as possible. When you buy a house, take out a mortgage that requires no more than 25 percent of your gross monthly income for the combination of your mortgage, property taxes, and homeowner's insurance (if you live in a high housing cost state, you may need to go as high as 30 percent).

With these two insights, youth need not be wasted on the young. If you're in your 20s, are you putting these ideas into practice? If you're older, what other financial lessons do you wish you had learned when you were younger?

Matt About Money blog: [www.MattAboutMoney.com](http://www.MattAboutMoney.com). © 2008 Financially Speaking.

## Financial sites that can help you:

<http://www.mattaboutmoney.com/blog/>

Matt's column is above and you can read more of his wise words at his blog

<http://dinkytown.net/java/CompoundSavings.html>

This online calculator will help you see how compound interest can help you save.

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**THE WORD: Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. — Luke 6:30 (NIV)**

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**Be generous with the first portion of any money received, save or invest the next portion, and then build your lifestyle on what remains.**

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# God's awesome grace

Just after Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in 1968, Robert F. Kennedy spoke to a group of mourners in Indianapolis. Having lost a brother to assassination, Kennedy knew just what to say. His feelings and thoughts were in total harmony with the crowd's.

Toward the end of his speech, Kennedy quoted from a poem by the ancient Greek poet Aeschylus: "Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God."

The dictionary defines awful as "inspiring awe." Such is the awesome grace of God.

## April Birthdays!

## Anniversaries!

## Congregation notes

### Casey Laughlin finishes Eagle Scout project at Merom

Thanks to Casey Laughlin and friends who finished his Eagle Scout project this spring at the Indiana-Kentucky Conference's Merom Conference Center.

Below is a photo of the project and all the helpers!



Do you have someone to thank? A note, event or sentiment you'd like to share with the congregation? Let me know by emailing me at [lweidenbener@yahoo.com](mailto:lweidenbener@yahoo.com) or putting a note in The Messenger mailbox by the choir room.

### Beyond April

## Upcoming events



Check Your Calendar

- All-Church Picnic, June 13, Garfield Park
- Fish Fry 2010, June 25-26. We'll need lots of volunteers!
- All-Church McCormick's Creek Retreat, Sept. 24-26

THOUGHTS: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. - Jim Elliott

# Taylor Youth Conference

Friday - Sunday, April 23-25

Christ is our light.

We cannot discover new things about God or see Him clearly if we are not in that light.

Are you willing to enter into the illumination of Christ  
so that you can see clearly as you dig deeper into God?

This year Youth Conference is going to dig together in order to DISCOVER what God is all about.

Bring your shovel and be ready to get your hands dirty!

To go, talk to Pastor Mark for more details.

Also, sign up online at  
[http://192.195.234.6/community/studentlife/  
ministry/two/yc/conference/index.html](http://192.195.234.6/community/studentlife/ministry/two/yc/conference/index.html)

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Sunday Worship Services

8:15 a.m. Early Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

9:15 a.m. Morning Mission for kids

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Church office hours 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mon-Fri

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