

Upward Banquet

We have had a great Upward season this year. The teams have all grown into awesome ball players and the coaches have done an amazing job.

There are so many that we need to thank that the list could go on and on. We would first like to thank our Lord and Savior for His blessings, mercy and grace this season. Where as we have battled the flu, colds, and other minor illnesses, we haven't had any major injuries. That is because of the Lord's great protection over the games and practices.

We would also like to thank the leadership of our Commissioners this year, Traci Milburn and Karen Watts. They have worked very hard to make this season run smoothly meeting the needs of all players, cheerleaders and parents. They have faced this job with the direction of an Upward Committee who has also helped them make some changes this season. One of those changes being that all the teams would have the same devotion each week that was led by Pastor Watts. The theme of those devotions were followed up on, on Saturday during the half-time sharing. It made it possible that parents and children were able to learn together.

We would like to thank Sharon McKinney, Dawn Watts and all the kitchen staff of the Double Dribble Cafe. Without their help it would be hard to have the finances for Upward to continue. They arrived early each week to cook and get things set up for the games.



In this Issue:

UPWARD BANQUET:

Celebrate Upward with us. For more information read the article on pg. 1

PASTOR ROB:

Pastor Rob shares thoughts on Righteousness on pg. 3

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

See what's happening this year for the Resurrection season. You won't want to miss a thing!!! pg. 5

Upward Banquet cont.

Of course we would be remiss if we didn't thank our wonderful announcer Paul Watts. You know the one who said each week, "LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!!!!" He got us up and going for each game and during each game cheering the teams on.

There were many volunteers behind the scenes who worked at stuffing envelopes, cleaning bathrooms, stocking the rooms with all the things that were needed to make each practice and game run smoothly.

Lastly, we would like to thank each of the parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncle and all the friends and family members who came out and supported each player. It was your cheering, your patience, your understanding and participation that made this season such a great success.

You pitched in and helped when needed and

helped make things run very smoothly.

This month we would like to invite all of you to the end of the season Banquet. We will be hosting a very special speaker, Kyle Snyder. He is an Ohio State wrestler, NCAA Champ, Olympic Gold Medalist, youngest World Champ and Olympic Champ in U.S. world history. However, most importantly, he is a very passionate follower of Jesus Christ. He will be here to eat with us and talk with us about his life and share his story. Everyone is welcome to come and join us for dinner at 6 and share in the celebration of another great, successful Upward season. The banquet will be held on Sunday night, March 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Traci Milburn or Karen Watts. They will be glad to answer any question that you might have.

As this season comes to a close, make sure that you are watching for information about the Upward Camp this summer. It should be an awesome time again on the court. The dates will be announced at the Banquet. See you there.



The Stone Rolled

March 24th is for children of all ages. Some would call this an Easter Egg Hunt, but we around here like to refer to this time of year as Resurrection time.

This is when Christ rose from the grave finishing the plan of salvation for all us. The stone was

rolled away on the third day and Jesus walked out alive.

Well, we are hosting an "Stone Rolling Party." Yes we'll be using eggs, but rather than calling it an Easter Egg Hunt, this is going to be a Stone Rolling.

Come Saturday, March 24th and bring your kids for special prizes, free food, bounce houses, and all kinds of great things going on. The doors open at 9 a.m. and the Stone rolling

begins at 10 a.m. For more information contact the church office at (614) 878-6808 We hope to see you there.



Pastor Rob's Thoughts

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6

In youth group we used to do these weekends called "Let it growl." What we did was get sponsors for a 30 fast. We would go without food for 30 hours and pray for those in countries that needed food, or medical supplies, or other things. It would start on a Friday and end on Saturday night after a District Youth Rally. I don't know how much money we raised as a youth group, what we cared about was spending the night together at the church.

By the end of the youth rally my stomach was really empty and growling. There were so many times I was tempted to go to the fridge, or the cupboard at home and eat something. Then I would remember the videos that we watched or the Bible lessons that were talked about Friday night and that would stop me. I'd let it growl. When the youth rally was over, though, man we pigged out. We would usually stop at a fast food place on the way home from the rally and all of us would eat as much as we wanted. Unfortunately, many of us would end up sick to our stomachs because we ate too much greasy food.

What happens in the physical is a picture of what takes place Spiritually. If we have to feed our physical bodies

we definitely need to feed our Spiritual bodies. This passage tells us that there are blessing for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. This isn't just a 30 hour fast, this is a real hunger. I want it all. I don't just want a taste. I want to eat as much as I can. This isn't talking about just little tidbits, or little nuggets of the Word of God, but all of the Word and all that God has for us. Let's take a deeper look at this passage.

Who can be blessed? The person who hungers and thirsts to be righteous and to do righteousness. You see to do righteousness is not enough. To be righteous is not enough. We have to

Righteousness in the Bible means being righteous and doing righteousness. The Bible knows nothing about being righteous without living righteously. We must be both in order to be blessed.

Blessed means Happy, the Joy of the Lord.

have both in order to be blessed. In order to have the joy of the Lord, we have to have both. There are so many in the church today that just want little

tidbits. They want just little pieces of righteousness, just enough to make them comfortable. That isn't what this is talking about. It is all or nothing at all.

You also have those who stress being righteous and neglect doing righteousness. There's a big problem with this. One, this is an error of false security. It causes us to stresses that we are saved and accepted to God because we have believed in Jesus. But we neglect going good. We do not live as we should, obeying God and serving others. Two, there is the error of loose living. It allows us to go out and do what we want and desire. We

feel secure and comfortable in our faith in Christ. we know that wrong behavior may affect our fellowship with God and other believers, but we think that our behavior does not affect our salvation and acceptance with God.

The problem with this stress is that it is a false righteousness. Righteousness in the Bible means being righteous and doing righteousness. The Bible knows noting about being righteous without

living righteously. We'll cover more of this in the next issue so do some study on this passage. In the meantime Do and Be righteous.

Hospitality

A famous guest experienced true hospitality in the home of a certain couple. They made him a working part of their family, and he made them a working part of his ministry. Who was this couple?

A shocked couple listened to the proclamation. The emperor Claudius had decided that certain people could not be included in the plans he had for his capital. These undesirable people were ordered to leave Rome, and this couple was included in the group.

They hastily packed their belongings, traveled to another city to find a home, and began to reestablish themselves. This experience may have been a motivation for them to learn and demonstrate hospitality to others.

One day a man knocked on their door. He explained that he practiced the same trade as they and that he was looking for lodging. This man was not particularly handsome, and his speech was not eloquent; but there was a power in his words and a humble graciousness in his spirit.

He found a warm welcome at the home of this couple. Soon he became a working member of the family. During their meals, he taught them the truths of Scripture. He worked diligently with them in making tents. It was a happy teamwork that often lasted far into the night.

This visitor was the apostle Paul. Each week he went to the local synagogue and boldly proclaimed the Gospel to those who were there. After weeks of his convincing ministry, there was a large following of believers in the city. A new dimension of hospitality was added to this couple's lives as they ministered to and strengthened the new converts.

Just as they had included Paul in the activities of their home, he included them in the further outreach of his ministry. These three Christians traveled to distant cities proclaiming the Gospel, demonstrating hospitality, and establishing churches.

One day this couple listened to a powerful speaker named Apollos. He was eloquent and sincere, but they recognized that he did not yet know vital truths that Paul had explained to them. They took him aside privately and taught him the way more perfectly. Then they demonstrated a further aspect of hospitality by introducing him to their friends in other cities.

The great influence of this couple is indicated in Scripture. Paul stated that they were his helpers in Christ Jesus, that they risked their lives for his, and that "unto whom not only he gave thanks but also all the churches of the Gentiles."

Aquila and Priscilla provided an atmosphere in their home which contributed to the growth of the early Christian church. That church continued to expand until one day the very city that rejected this couple became a major center for the Gospel. Acts 18:1-28

Just facts

1. Aquilla and Priscilla became seasoned travelers through their many relocations.
2. They moved from Rome to Corinth to Ephesus, back to Rome and then back to Ephesus in their tireless ministry for the Lord.
3. Aquilla supplied the market's demand for tents, to which the Roman army was a major consumer.

He's Alive

There's been talk around the church concerning Resurrection Sunday this year. It is hard to believe that Resurrection Sunday is actually on April 1st. When it is brought up in conversations the comment that is made is, "What? You're joking." Well, this is no April Fool's Joke. Resurrection Sunday is on April's 1st.

Isn't it great to know that Jesus rose from the grave. He isn't there. The Disciples didn't come and take His body. The Romans didn't come and take His body. The women didn't hide His body. He walked out of that tomb on that third day alive and well. He walked out defeating satan, sin, death, and the grave. He did all that so that you and I can live in victory today. That's no joke. There's no fooling. He didn't say, "April Fool's." He's seated right now at the right hand of God the Father interceding for you and for me. That's no joke.

On April 1st we're going to celebrate this momentous occasion. It all starts at 7:30 with a great time of worship that will be followed by an awesome breakfast. Once we've had our coffee and breakfast, the celebration continues on at 10:30 with special music and another great opportunity for worship.



He's ALIVE!!! There's no denying it. The tomb is empty. Come out and celebrate His resurrection this April 1st and let the devil know that the jokes on him.

Communion Footwashing

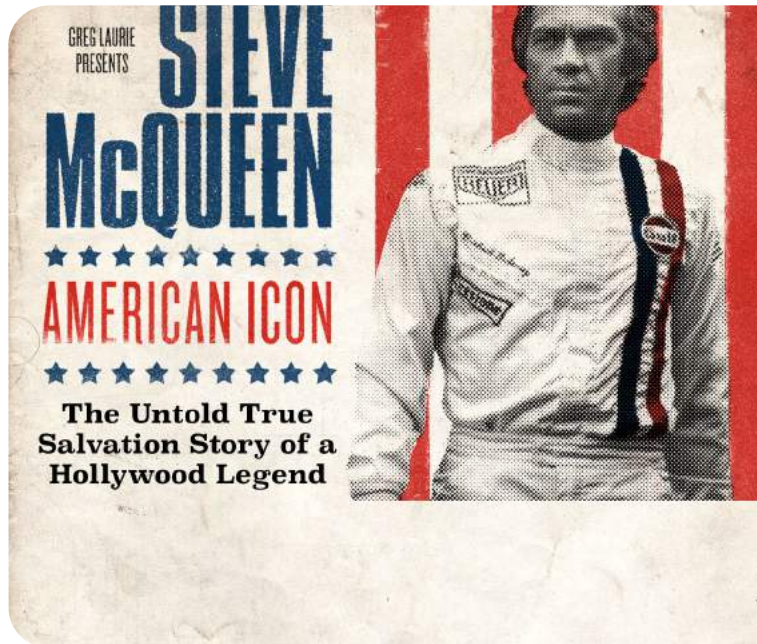
Wednesday, March 28th we will be remembering the Lord and how He instructed His disciples that last night that He was with them before the cross. If you remember, He was in Jerusalem, in the Upper Room, observing the Passover. In the midst of the dinner, He got up and removed His cloak and picked up a basin and filled it with water. He took a towel and wrapped it around Him and started washing the disciples feet. One by one around the room. Oh, to be a fly on the wall that night as He was going around the room. What they must have thought. What they must have talked about. What they must have said to one another. Then to think that He washed Judas' feet and Judas knowing that He was going to turn Christ in to be arrested. What was going through His mind as Jesus was kneeling before Him washing His feet. Serving Him. Humbling Himself. Jesus then gives the lesson of doing it to each other. That is the reason why we observe Footwashing. It is a great time of worship.

As a part of the evening we also remember the Lord through the partaking of Communion. This is the time when, at the same meal, Jesus had taken His place again at the table, took bread and gave thanks. He broke the bread and said, "This is my body broken for you. Take eat all of it." He then took the cup, gave thanks, and said, "This is the blood of the New Covenant. Drink all of it in remembrance of Me." He was talking about His blood that was going to be shed on the cross. We partake of Communion in remembrance of Him. The price that was paid so that we are made whole and righteous before the Lord.

Come and remember the Lord with us on this very special Wednesday night at 7 p.m. It is a very powerful time of worship and celebration.

Steve McQueen

One of America's Icons and most endearing and intriguing movie stars. He is noted to be the "King of Cool" according to Esquire Magazine—50 years after the zenith of his career!



His story on the big screen at Columbus West Church Sunday, April 29th. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the movie starting at 7 p.m. Tickets available at iTickets.com, or the church office.

The coolest thing about Steve McQueen was not what you saw on the big screen, it was something that was barely known, despite the countless biographies and articles. **Steve McQueen was a believer in Jesus Christ.**

On the surface McQueen had everything he could want—fame, cars, homes, more money than he could spend in a lifetime. An avid fan of the actor (and owner of a replica of McQueen's car in the classic film **Bullitt**), Pastor Greg Laurie hits the road in his mint Mustang, traveling the country in search of the true, untold story of McQueen's redemption-filled final chapters.

Narrated by Gary Sinise, interviews include: Barbara Minty McQueen, his widow, Academy Award winning director Mel Gibson, Renown Stuntman Stan Barrett, Celebrated McQueen biographer Marshall Terrill, Actors

Barbara Leigh and Mel Novak. Discover this amazing, true faith journey in:

STEVE MCQUEEN: AMERICAN ICON

The salvation story of a Hollywood Legend

Don't miss out!! Go online today to get your tickets for \$8 per person for advance sales. They will be \$10 at the door. Each ticket includes a free bag of popcorn. For more information feel free to contact the church at (614) 878-6808.

Work As Worship Retreat

On Friday February 23rd a group of us gathered in the Library for the first live stream of the “Work as Worship Retreat” that was sponsored by RightNow Media. What a great day. We heard from Matt Chandler, Anne Beiler, Joel Manby, Phil Vischer, to just name a few.

They shared with us some steps how we can bring worship into the workplace. How the Lord encourages all believers to be “Faithful and Fruitful.” It was interesting to hear their stories and the companies

that they run with Christian principles. Companies like Seaworld, Auntie Annes Soft Pretzels, Interstate Batteries, etc.

We enjoyed a great lunch, great fellowship, and time spent with the Lord. There were over 1,000 churches participated and 13,000 people participated in this event across America.

The main question that we were looking to answer

throughout the day was, “What would it look like if my faith intersected with my work?” Each speaker did a tremendous job in giving us Biblical principles to bring the

Word of God into the Workplace. We would like to encourage you to participate in the next retreat that is made available.



Men's Fellowship

Break time is over. Basketball is finished. Time for us to gather again!!!!!!



Men, our winter break is over. Upward has finished its season and we can start meeting once a month again. So, starting Saturday, April 14th we will be gathering at 8:30 a.m. at Abner's on Main St. in Old Hilliard.

We have had some great conversations around the table and this new season ought to prove to be awesome. Get ready for some great food, great fellowship, and some great time of sharing the Lord together.

Opportunities for Growth

Every believer should be working at growing their relationship with the Lord. Here at Columbus West Church we want to offer several opportunities for all ages to deepen that walk and to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

Wednesday Services: Adult 7 p.m.

Kid's Club 7 p.m.

Youth Group 7 p.m.

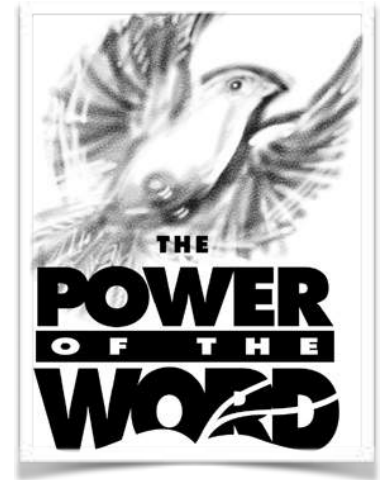
Ladies Bible Study Thursday Morning 10 a.m.

Craft and Verse Friday Morning 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.

We also offer a one on one and small group discipleship opportunity. This opportunity is by sign-up only and is worked through the Sr. Pastor. If you are interested in this discipleship ministry, please contact the Church office at (614) 878-6808 and he will be glad to put you in touch with the one leading the discipleship groups.

We are able to endure the tests and trials, stand strong against the enemy, and live victorious lives, as we equip ourselves with the Word of God. It is our desire to be Holy as He is Holy and that is done by studying His Word. See you around the church.



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