



HERALD OF HOPE

JANUARY 2011

REFLECTIONS

When my granddaughter was placed in my arms for the first time, her eyes were closed. They remained closed when I fed her. And when I tried to coax a burp from her, even then, her eyes were tightly shut. I really desired to see her eyes, probably because of that thing about eyes being a window to the soul. I felt like we would not be fully introduced to each other until her eyes opened and they met mine. Finally it happened. “Big Ellie,” as they referred to her in the hospital because she dwarfed the others in the nursery, opened her eyes. It was a wonderful moment of introduction and connection. It was a spirit moment that can never be duplicated.

In a symbolic sense, however, I wish Ellie’s eyes would have remained closed. I wish that she could be blinded from all of the ugliness that opened eyes experience. It is a poignant genesis moment when the biblical account reveals that Adam & Eve’s “eyes were opened.” They now were able to see, feel, and participate in, if they chose, a broken and sin-plagued world. As parents and grandparents, we desire to protect and insulate our children from potential harm and ugliness. That, however, is not possible. Eyes were meant to be opened. It is the gift of God’s grand design. It is the curse of humanity’s poor choices.

The best we can do as adult caretakers and role models is to give tender care and be exceptional models of living to our children. A solid foundation that professes and teaches faith and values will act as sunglasses on the opened eyes of a new life that faces the blinding glare of the world. If that glare is diffused, it becomes a light that illuminates instead of distorts. And it is the light of the world.

Grace & Peace,
Jay

(Eleanor Louise Krumeich, granddaughter of Pastor Jay and Pastor Holly, was born on January 10, 2011. Her name means “light”.

**LECTIONARY FOR THE
MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

February 6

Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

February 13

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 20

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 27

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131 or Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30**

- Immediately following 10:30A worship
- No 8:15A Devotional Service
- Annual Reports available in the Welcome Center

BAPTISM CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Nancy Joiner | 2-05-50 |
| Larry Mueller | 2-13-68 |
| Eric Stephens | 2-16-59 |
| Joyce Patton | 2-23-64 |

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

“Battle of the Sexes”

Saturday, February 12 - 6:00P

RSVP to Bonnie or call the church office at 234-2358. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share!

PRAYER & PERSPIRATION

Beginning February 2

Wednesdays - 9A

Miller Fellowship Hall

Please join Pastor Jay and his exercise group as they stretch, flex and get their bodies moving.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Begins Sunday, February 6 - 9AM

Led by Pastor Jay in Room 7

“American Grace - How Religion Divides and Unites Us”

COMING EVENTS AT HOPE

January 30Congregational Meeting
February 2.....Prayer & Perspiration Resumes
February 3.....Blood Drive at Hope, 3-7P
February 5.....Open House at the Belleville Christian Center
February 6.....Baby Bottles for Mosaic Pregnancy Center due at Hope
.....New Sunday School Class led by Pastor Jay begins in Room 7 -
.....“American Grace - How Religion Divides & Unites Us”
.....New Members Day
February 8.....Belleville Christian Center Lunch
February 20.....Sunday School Youth go Roller Skating
February 21.....Senior Singles’ Lunch
February 22.....MOPS at Union UMC, 6:30P
February 24.....Book Club, 10:30A

Christian Education News!

We are planning a trip to Fun Spot Roller Rink on Sunday, February 20. Watch for announcements for this and future outings.

We will be planning our Annual Easter Egg Hunt very soon. The event will be scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd, so please mark your calendars. If you'd like to help with this event in anyway, please contact Amy Pannier. We will also be making future announcements regarding the volunteer opportunities and donation needs. Stay tuned!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always seeking new volunteers in the nursery as well as for Junior Church. Having numerous volunteers for both areas will help lengthen our rotation cycle. If you would like to assist with the nursery or with Junior Church (or both!) please contact Amy Pannier or the Church Office. We will assist in scheduling and will offer a short training of duties as well.

NURSERY AND JUNIOR CHURCH VOLUNTEER REMINDERS!

Just a friendly reminder that if you are scheduled for Nursery Greeter, Nursery Volunteer, or Junior Church and you are unable to fulfill your duty, please remember that it is your responsibility to find someone to fill your position. We understand that emergencies occur and last minute changes will be made at times, but we want to insure that we can continue to offer these services each week. If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact Amy Pannier or the Church Office. Thank you!

NEW MEMBERS' DAY

Sunday, February 6

See Pastor Jay for more information!

QUILTERS NEEDED!

The hand-quilting group at Hope Church is dwindling and we could use some "New Blood". Have you ever thought you would like to learn to quilt? Well, here is your golden opportunity to learn. We will be giving "FREE" classes during the day and/or evenings for approximately 5 weeks. Contact Bobbie Rhein or Bonnie at the church office if you are interested. It is a great social time while at the same time you are helping Hope Church. Look forward to seeing you soon.

"THANK YOU" OPEN HOUSE

AT THE BELLEVILLE CHRISTIAN CENTER

104 South 17th Street - Belleville

Saturday, February 5

Brunch & Fellowship - 10:00AM

Prayer - 11:00AM

OUR CHURCH FAMILY. . .

BIRTH

We extend our congratulations to **Kevin and Allison Bruns** on the birth of their son, **Austin Lee Bruns** born January 22, 2011. Austin's proud grandmother is **Suzie Clark**.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to **Sandy Rhodes** in the loss of her uncle **Kenneth Bright** on January 17, 2010.

Horizon Hope Counseling

We at Horizon Hope Counseling see tenderness and kindness in marriage, healthy interactions between parents and children, and quality relationships in all spheres of life. These may seem like strong and lofty goals, but I believe that is what God has called us to as the body of Christ. All of us know the family who experience strife within the walls or conflict and tension in the marriage. We know this, because at times it has been each of us. Certainly some struggle more with this than others. I encourage you to pray for those people in your families, in your church, in the workplace and even in your own home that may be going through a tough time. It is amazing how much of an encouragement we can be and often are to one another. Don't miss an opportunity to embrace the pain of another person. We at Horizon Hope Counseling believe in the resiliency of relationships and marriage and invest our entire lives in helping people find new ways to relate to one another. This is what God has called us to.

We have an office in your church and our main office is in Union United Methodist Church. Each and every day we have the blessing to sit with people in an office for counseling as they seek to discover something new; a new way of being a child of God, a new way to forgive, a new way to be together as a couple, a new way to find meaning and purpose as they move past depression or a time of anxiety, a new way to be a parent or a new way to be themselves. God helps us find and forge new ways in a new year. We all work together in shared ministry to complete the task God has called us.

Galatians 6:9-10 reminds us "And let us not lose heart in doing good for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity let us do good, to all, especially to those in the household of faith."

Dr. Steve Heitkamp
Horizon Hope Counseling, Inc.
www.horizonhope.org

SENIOR SINGLES' LUNCHEON

Monday, February 21 - 11:30AM

Please RSVP - 234-2358 or

fill out the form in the Sunday bulletin

THANK YOU

Dear Hope Church Family:

I want to express my thanks for all the greetings I received during my illness. The expressions of encouragement and offered prayers were a real blessing to me. Thanks, also, to Pastor Jay for his wonderful prayers and visits.

Sincerely,
Barbara Fickel

Dear Hope Family:

Thank you for all the prayers and cards. Thanks to Pastor Jay for bringing me communion at the hospital. I am back in Mascoutah trying to get strong enough to go home but I guess it will take a while. I miss the Hope Church family. Thanks again for all the cards and prayers.

Mae Etling

To Our Hope Family:

Joe wants to send you his thanks to all who remembered him at Christmas with the many thoughtful cards he received. He also appreciates Pastor Jay's visits and communion he brings to him. He really enjoys the visits from many of you, and the treats. It all makes him feel blessed to be remembered. God's blessing to all.

Joe Altman and his family

Dear Hope Family:

Thank you all for your prayers and get well wishes during my recovery from recent surgery. The meal from the Manna team was delicious and very much appreciated. A special thank you to Pastor Jay for your hospital visits and prayers. It's truly a blessing to have such a caring church family.

In Christian Love,
Sue Poole