



- Christian Family Week May 4-10th.
- National Day of Prayer May 7th
- Mother's Day May 10th
- Armed Forces Day May 16th
- Memorial Day May 25th

Memories of Mother

As long ago we carried to your knees
 The tales and treasures of eventful days,
 Knowing no deed too humble for your praise,
 nor any gift too trivial to please.
 So still we bring with older smiles and tears,
 what gifts we may to claim the old, dear right;
 your faith beyond the silence and the night;
 your love still close and watching through the years.

INFO



A Rose for Mom

Words From The Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

Guess where I am? No need to guess.....you never could. I am sitting in the living room at my mother's apartment at the Lake of Egypt in Southern Illinois. The Lake of Egypt is about 10 miles south of Marion, Illinois. Today is Monday, the 20th day of April. Immediately after Sunday morning worship yesterday, Diania and I left Wise to drive to Marion to visit with mom for a couple of days. We arrived late on Sunday evening. We stayed the night in a cabin that has a deck that extends out over the lake. We spent the night listening to the waves crashing against the shoreline and the high, strong winds as they screamed and howled across the lake. It is a beautiful setting here and very relaxing. The Lake of Egypt has a beautiful Bald Eagle with a nest just across from where we are staying. Actually, we just wanted a day or two with mom and then we will be returning to Wise only to leave for a wedding in Birmingham on Thursday. The wedding is Saturday evening, and we will be driving back late on Saturday, arriving early Sunday morning in time for me to get to the pulpit to preach in the Sunday morning service. I know it sounds hectic to most of you, but driving is therapeutic.....theripwe.....therpew.....relaxing to me.

I want to talk or write about the recent Easter Pageant

that we celebrated on Easter Sunday morning. Dewey Rowland has given me a copy of the DVD to view, but I have not had the time to do so at this point. Being on the stage, I did not get to see too much of the drama, but from what I could see, and what some have commented to me, the Pageant was a great success. I am going to do a no-no for sure. I am going to try to thank some of the ones who were instrumental in making this event a success.

First, let me give you a brief history of the Pageant.

I was first acquainted with this particular Easter Pageant back in 1973 in Marion, Indiana. The city of Marion had performed this Pageant for over 50 years. My sister-in-law and I decided in 73 to join the community effort. I fell in love with the music. The Pageant then involved a 200 voice choir, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and a volunteer cast from the community of about 300. It was a massive production. Obviously we do not have that number to draw from, so I have attempted to scale down the drama portion. Still, we do pretty much of the original from Marion with a scaled down force. I am so proud of the work that our people do

here at First Church of God.

At the risk of leaving someone out, let me first say that if you had any part in the production, you are appreciated. It takes a lot of work to produce this 45 minute drama. Actually, we had an Easter Pageant Committee that met regularly throughout the year. Meeting almost every Tuesday evening for the past many months were Rick and Glenda McReynolds, Doug Stallard, Rita Broyles, Leigh Myers, and Stephanie Carter. These are the folks who created the scenery and props used in the Pageant. Special thanks have to be credited to Rita Broyles who was instrumental in creating the elaborate costumes. I know that several of the others assisted Rita. The ones that I am aware of are Betty Carter and Glenda McReynolds. If others helped, we appreciate you as well. Also, Glenda and Rita provided most of the props used. Doug and Rick spent a lot of time on the construction portion of the scenes that we used.

I also want to thank Sandy Spera for jumping in mid stream and bringing the music to life. Sandy is one of the best, most methodic music instructors that I have ever sat under. Also, she and Julie

"Words" cont'd on pg. 3

And the Winner is...

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council



The Sunday School winner for the month of February was Billy Kilgore .

Congratulations Billy!



The Sunday School winner for the month of March was Mona Orr.

Congratulations Mona!



Where Everyone Gets Along



Peter Hermann, who spends half the year in Bisbee, Arizona, wrote to the local paper expressing his appreciation for the small town. He told of a man who's a fixture on Bisbee's main street. The man is accompanied by three pets: a mouse who sits on the back of a cat, who sits on a dog.

To Hermann, that scene speaks of Bisbee's wholesome, accepting attitude. It is proof positive, he wrote, that "everyone gets along in Bisbee."

That reminds one of Isaiah's words: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6, NRSV

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

- Mona Orr—Chair
- Phyllis Belcher
- Sue Ellen Fleming
- Diania Murphy
- Charlotte Rice

Memorial Day

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important

to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank

you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."



“Words” cont’d from page 1

Easterling are wonderful musicians who have played this music, some of it very difficult music, for the past several years. We are so blessed to have such professional musicians in our church.

How in this world can we ever thank Danny Mullins for the work he does with the sound? I think every time we have an event, be it from a musical production to one of the children’s productions that this will be the one to drive Danny away. But he never complains and always comes through for us. Danny, you are truly appreciated by the choir, the Adventure Club, the special singers and the entire church.

I don’t really know what to say about our choir.

This Pageant has been a dream of mine for about thirty years. Some of music I presented is very difficult. From the outset, our choir has been up to the test. I thank the choir for their work and I expect that they will get even better in the coming events.

Last but certainly not least, I thank you, the congregation who have attended the past two years. This year we had a cast of about 35-40. We had 208 in attendance. So some 170 or so came to view the Pageant. The most important part of any such production is the spreading of the Easter message. I have heard many comments that the message came through by the efforts of the cast and choir. Thanks to each of you

who attended. We hope you were blessed and challenged to live closer to the Lord through these efforts.

We will begin to work on next years Pageant in the next month or so. We will begin to meet on Tuesday evenings again and the choir will begin to rehearse the music. If you would like to be a part of the choir or the production staff, please contact me. Don’t wait for me to ask you. I need you to come forward and ask to be a part. We have a place for you in the choir or in the crew or the cast. Speak up. I want to hear from you.

Again, many thanks to all who helped. We have the most awesome costumes anywhere this side of

Hollywood. We have the most realistic character of Jesus (Chris Basham) that I have ever seen in a local drama. Every member is a “star” in my eyes. Thanks again, and let’s all *stay on the path with Jesus* until next year when we can do it again.

Young Song
in Concert
May 17th
11 a.m.

It Takes A Mother

It takes a mother’s love to make a house a home,
A place to be remembered, no matter where we roam.

It takes a mother’s patience to bring a child up right
And her courage and her cheerfulness to make a dark day bright.

It takes a mother’s kindness to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble and bow her head in prayer.

It takes a mother’s wisdom to recognize our needs
And give us reassurance by her loving words and deeds.

It takes a mother’s endless faith, her confidence and trust,
To guide us through the pitfalls of selfishness and lust.
And that is why in all this world there can never be another
Who will fulfill God’s purposes as completely as a mother.

First Church of God

P.O. Box 980

702 E. Main St.

Wise, VA 24293

Phone / Fax: (276) 328-8791

Parsonage: (276) 328-5749

Pastor's Cell: (276) 275-1171

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Email: bemurphy65@yahoo.com



We're on the web!

www.wisefirstchurchofgod.org



Thanks to Sturley Ostrander
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?
01-15-2004

Happy
Mother's
Day!

First Church of God

Sunday:

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Adventure Club Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Adventure Club	7:00 p.m.

This Month:

- 4 Outreach Meeting
- 5 WCG Meeting
- 6 Ministry & Programming
- 9 Men's Breakfast
- 10 MOTHER'S DAY
- 10 No PM Service
- 13 Finance Council
- 17 YOUNG SONG CONCERT
- 17 Singspiration & Birthday / Anniversary Dinner, PM
- 20 Christian Ed. Council
- 24 No PM Service
- 25 Memorial Day / Office Closed
- 31 Unity Service held here

June:

- 1 Outreach Meeting
- 2 WCG Meeting
- 3 Ministry & Prog. Council
- 10 Finance Council
- 13 Men's Breakfast

