



...feeding the spirit, refreshing the soul

November/December 2007

## Manager's Message



Wow – can you believe Christmas is almost here again? I don't know where the time goes. Sometimes I feel like time flies by and I'm not getting done everything I want to do or be where I want to be. But then I remember that

as long as I continue seeking after God, I'm right where He wants me to be. So then I just relax and praise God! So take time during this busy season to just relax, thank God for everything you have, and praise Him!

-Melissa Barth

### 3:16



Ah, the awe-inspiring, spirit-shaking words of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." It defies the realm of human understanding to fully grasp that we are loved by God so much that He sent His

Son to fulfill our debt of eternal suffering and that if we believe in this miracle, we will spend eternity in glory with God. Also, we now possess the freedom to benefit from His divine intervention in this life. What an amazing God we serve. In *3:16-The Numbers of Hope*, author Max Lucado examines in detail, the blessed assurance of this scripture. Stop by Tree of Life today to pick up a copy at the sale price of **\$19.99** (regular price \$24.99).

## Nuggets of Wisdom

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name" (Psalm 100:4). We are entering once again, into what is nationally known as the "season of Thanksgiving" where families gather around a large feast to pay homage to Butterball®, football, and candied yams. It's a time to reflect on the year gone by and how much God has done for us. Did you know that we do not have to wait until November to celebrate "thanksgiving?" We should remember to give Him thanks every day if for no other reason than having the breath to do so. In a world where every season that was once a Christian celebration has now become commercialized, it is more important than ever that we embrace the true significance of the holidays every day of the year. Every day let's celebrate Jesus' birth(Christmas), His resurrection(Easter), and give thanks for His sacrifice for our salvation. God bless you during this holiday season! (Chrissy Feldman)

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## Coming Events

### Operation Christmas Child

Deadline is November 10th



Make a child's Christmas more special this year by filling a shoebox to send overseas. *Tree of life* is your one-stop shop for shoebox items including toiletries, school supplies, small toys, jewelry, candy, and more. Items purchased in our store for your shoebox receive a 20% discount. You can also bring your own items to fill a shoebox or make a flat monetary donation. Help us reach our goal of 50 boxes!

### BOZ WowieBOZowie Christmas Event

Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 p.m.



Calling all kids up to 6 years old! Join us at Living Faith Church and watch the new BOZ Christmas DVD, hear a BOZ story, and win prizes!

### Moonlight Sale

Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Kick off the shopping season with 25% off our entire store! Warm up with wassail, enjoy Christmas cookies, and enter to win prizes!

### VeggieTales Pirate Party

Saturday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.



Ahoy Maties! Join us at Living Faith church to kick off the release of the new VeggieTales movie, *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything* (in theaters January 11, 2008). Come dressed as a Pirate and get ready to sing along with Veggie tunes from the movie, play games, and win prizes!

## VBS Workshop

Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.

At Living Faith Church, 910 South High Street in West Chester. We will be presenting several different kits and you will have the opportunity to purchase them at the workshop for a discount. Call 610-429-3050 to reserve your seats.

## Kids Korner

### The Broken Nest



Angie wondered when something good was going to happen. This sure hasn't been a good week so far, she thought.

First I . . . Her thoughts were interrupted by her mother's voice. "Look, Angie! A bird's making a nest in our garden," said Mom. Angie turned and looked toward where her mom was pointing. "Mom, that tree's no good!" exclaimed Angie. "It's dying, isn't it? Almost all of its leaves have fallen off!" She watched a few minutes longer. "Make your nest in the apple tree!" she called to the bird. Of course, it ignored her. Angie walked over, stood on tiptoe, and picked up a few twigs from the nest the bird was making. She carried them over to the apple tree. "Here, bird! Build your nest here," she said. The bird twittered angrily and continued to build the nest it had started. Mom laughed. "It's no use . . . it's made up its mind to nest there," she said. "I guess so," agreed Angie. She sat down on the porch steps and watched the bird finish its nest. "I still don't think that old tree is a very good place for a nest," she said when she went in for dinner. "That bird should have picked a different spot." That night, there was a storm. The wind howled outside Angie's window, and the rain fell down in great torrents. When Angie gazed out the window next morning, she saw that the branch with the bird's nest lay flat on the ground and bits of straw and twigs were scattered nearby. "Mom, the bird's nest is broken," cried Angie. "Poor bird! Whatever will it do now?" "I'm sure it will build another one," replied Mom. Angie watched the bird fly round and round the fallen branch, twittering and chirping. Then it began to collect twigs and straw, and to Angie's surprise, flew across to the apple tree. "Well!" exclaimed Angie, "I guess it's a good thing the nest got broken before it had eggs in it. Now the bird will have a home with lots of leafy branches for protection from rain and wind." Mom smiled. "The broken nest must have looked like a major tragedy to the bird, but God gave it the wisdom and ability to make something good out of apparent disaster," she said. "He gives us the ability to do that too." She gave Angie a hug as she added, "Things that seem like disasters to us can teach us important things. They can help us learn to trust God and grow strong."

### HOW ABOUT YOU?

What is your attitude when bad things happen in your life-when you lose a friend, you have to move to a

strange place, you fail an exam, or you get sick? Do you think everything looks hopeless? Or do you remember that God can use all situations to work something good in your life? He used what seemed like disastrous circumstances to bring about good in Joseph's life. Trust Him to do that for you, too.

### KEY VERSE:

All things work together for good to those who love God. Romans 8:28

(<http://cbh.gospelcom.net/home.php>)

## Teen Talk



Anyone can say keep a smile on his face long enough to make it through a church service or can manage to respond respectfully to authority when given instruction. Anyone can put on a front so that everyone around them would have no reason to think anything is wrong. However, God knows every thought that person is thinking and sees what he does when no one else is present to see. You cannot fool God. No matter how hard you try, He will always see everything that takes place in your life. In Acts 5:1-10, we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira. This husband and wife sold some property and decided to give a quantity of the money to the church. So far, this sounds like a good thing to do, right? However, when they took the money, Peter asked them if the amount they brought was the full price that the land had been sold for, and they both said that it was. The fact is they had actually held back some of the money they had earned. That is where they went wrong. They blatantly lied about what they were doing, all because it would make them look good in front of everyone else around. But God knew what had really taken place and was aware of how much of the money they were actually giving. Because of their deceitfulness, God instantly struck them both dead. Just like Ananias and Sapphira, we can fool anyone around us, but we will never fool God. Everyone at our church or Christian school can see us and think that everything in our life is grand and glorious and that we are faithfully living our lives for the Lord. People can notice our smile and believe we have joy. The truth is sometimes we're only putting on a front. Inside there could be bitterness, a wrong attitude, pride, selfishness, immorality, or some other sin that needs to be taken care of. Allow me to remind you today that even though man only looks on your outward appearance, God most certainly can see what is concealed in your heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Is that genuine godliness that people see when they look at your life? Or is that only what you want people to think you are? If you are not truly living a godly life for the Lord, I trust you will begin today!

(Kara VanDyne, 16, [www.youth4him.com](http://www.youth4him.com))

## Trivia Question



**Congratulations to Jane Armstrong!** She had the correct answer to last month's trivia question and her name was drawn for a gift certificate! The question was: **After the Fall, what did God put around the Tree of Life to keep Adam and Eve away?** The answer is: **Cherubim with flaming swords.**

**This month's question: In which city did Paul preach about the "unknown god" to the local philosophers?**

Tell us with the correct answer by December 15<sup>th</sup> and be put into the drawing for a FREE gift certificate!

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to equip the body of Christ in West Chester and surrounding areas by connecting them to the Christ centered resources needed to share God's love with others and build them up in their own faith. Additionally, our mission is to connect people in West Chester and surrounding areas to the local church, promoting unity, for the common purpose of reaching a lost world.

## Recipe of the Month

### **Steamed Southern Sweet Potato Custard**

1 can (16 oz) cut sweet potatoes, drained

1 can (12 oz) evaporated milk, divided

½ cup packed brown sugar

2 eggs, lightly beaten

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

½ tsp. ground ginger

¼ tsp. salt

Whipping cream and ground nutmeg (optional)

Process sweet potatoes with about ¼ cup milk in food processor or blender until smooth. Add remaining milk, brown sugar, eggs, cinnamon, ginger, and salt. Process until well mixed. Pour into 1 quart ungreased soufflé dish. Cover tightly with foil. Crumple large sheet of foil; place in bottom of slow cooker. Pour two cups of water over foil. Make foil handles and place soufflé dish on top of foil strips. Transfer dish to slow cooker using foil handles; lay foil strips over top of dish. Cover and cook on high 2 ½ to 3 hours or until skewer inserted in center comes out clean. Using foil strips, lift slow cooker and transfer to wire rack. Uncover, let stand 30 minutes. Garnish with whipped cream and ginger if desired. Makes 4 servings.

## Ongoing Specials

- ❖ WCU students and senior citizens receive 10% off their purchases
- ❖ Anyone purchasing 10+ of the same item will receive 10% off.
- ❖ We honor competitor's coupons and prices (excluding online stores).

## New Releases

### **Adult:**

*Become a Better You*, Joel Osteen

*Amazing Grace (DVD)*, (11/12)

*Between Sundays*, Karen Kingsbury (Nov)

*Sabrina*, Lori Wick (Dec)

*Mosaic*, Amy Grant

### **Music:**

*WOW Hits 2008*, Various

### **Children:**

*The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything Sing-a-long DVD* (Dec)

### **Magazines**

*SpiritLed Woman* – Cover Story – *This is Your Season*

*Charisma* – Cover Story – *One Hundred Years of the Spirit*

## New Arrivals

*28 Month Planners by DaySpring* (2008-2009)

*Christmas boxed and single cards*

*Christmas Ornaments*

*Nativities*

*Willow Tree "The Christmas Story"*

*Advent Wreaths and candles*

*Kneeling Santa figures and ornaments*

*Almighty Hero Action Figures*

*Scripture Quoting Sword*

Tree of Life Bookstore

**15% off**

one regularly priced item.

Not to be combined. Some exclusions apply.  
One coupon per customer.  
Valid November 1-15, 2007.

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**15% off**

one regularly priced item.

Not to be combined. Some exclusions apply.  
One coupon per customer.  
Valid November 16-30, 2007.

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Tree of Life Bookstore

**15% off**

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Not to be combined. Some exclusions apply.  
One coupon per customer.  
Valid December 16-31, 2007.

## SPECIALS

T-Shirts **20% off!**

Board Games **30% off!**

Clearance items up to **90% off!**