



EASTER HAPPENINGS AT SPRING HILL

It can now be reported that all of the Easter happenings at Spring Hill were highly successful. Beginning with our choir cantata Palm Sunday, continuing with our Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt Saturday before Easter and then concluding with our great Easter Sunday service -- all were acclaimed as "just great!" Over 300 attended our cantata, over 200 were present for our Easter Egg Hunt, and 391 were here for our Easter worship. And in each event and service, God blessed us, and we are continuing to thank Him and to praise Him.



DON'T THROW THOSE GOOD OLD CLOTHES AWAY!

As in the past few years, we will be sponsoring a clothing drive For MASTER Provisions. This includes all kinds of clothing items, as well as shoes. The clothing is delivered to "thrift" stores in various countries for those in need. You may place your donations in the coat room off the main church lobby. The drive has begun and will continue until June 1. Spring Hill has usually filled a truck, and we are hoping to do so again this year.

OWLS' GOOD NEWS

The OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors), thirty-three of them in all, enjoyed a special night out at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Dayton. All of us agreed we must do it again in the future. Besides the very good fellowship with one another, everyone agreed that the food was delicious, and the service was exceptional! Our next meeting will be our Bunco and Brat Night May 12. Plan now to attend, and enjoy being with your Christian friends for a night of fun and laughter. And see who wins the PIG!

WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL?

There are those who faithfully attend a Sunday School class every Sunday morning. And by merely looking into those classes, it is evident that they enjoy this time with others seeking to know the Word better. And how important that is! There is no way to grow in Christ without study of His Book. Spring Hill has a corps of very capable and experienced teachers staffing our Sunday School. In fact, we have teachers, some of whom have taught for over 40 years. And there is a class provided for every age from the little ones to the adults. Why not schedule Sunday School in your schedule each Sunday morning? Join a class, and you will learn more than you ever thought possible. Just ask those who attend. (Parents, your children, as well as your family, will profit greatly by attending Sunday School each week at 9:45 a.m.)

100 Mile Club How Are You Doing?



THANKS TO OUR LADIES!

In any church, the ladies are usually very busy serving and ministering in many ways. And that's certainly the way it is here at Spring Hill. We want especially to thank them at this time for serving two funeral dinners Monday, March 13. One was held around noon, and the other at 4:00 p.m. Both families (the family of Betty Perry and the family of Sylvia Booth) were greatly appreciative and complimentary of our women and of the delicious food they served. It would not be possible to list all of those who helped by bringing food and/or helping in the kitchen during the day. Thank you to all who helped in any way in this beautiful ministry of serving those in need of support and encouragement. By the way, our women serve in this way many times each year. Our ladies meet the fourth Monday night of each month to plan their various activities and ministries for the year. All ladies or the church are invited to attend and to help them serve the Lord throughout the year.

Ladies Spring Tea

The Ladies Tea will be held on May 30th at 1:00 p.m. All ladies are invited. Cost: Adults \$10.00, Age 6-12 \$5.00, 5 and under free. There will be gluten free items for the ladies also. Please indicate when you purchase your tickets that you are gluten free. If there are other dietary needs, please let us know. We don't want to exclude anyone for this reason.

Youth and Parents:

LOCK THEM IN!

Another great youth LOCK-IN will be held Friday night, May 8, from 9:30 p.m. until Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. Besides the fun of just being together with other youth, there will be dodge ball, basketball and board games for all. And, of course, "lots" of pizza and other snacks. The night will also include devotional and prayer time. Just another opportunity for our youth to grow in Christ with other Christian youth!

TUESDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION

May 17 will be a big day for the children of our Tuesday school as they don their graduation caps, march in to the strains of Pomp and Circumstance and receive their diplomas as this fifteenth school year comes to a close. Parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends fill our sanctuary each year for this "big" event. Come and join us as we gather to see our children close out another successful year of Tuesday School. Thanks to our many volunteers who teach, lead singing, serve refreshments and in other ways, staff our school each year. This fourteenth year has been highly successful because of their hard work.



TALENT NIGHT: APRIL 26

A popular program in the past has been our Talent Night, which this year is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. April 26. Be sure to come to enjoy this program of various types of talent from singing to instrumental numbers to comedy routines. You'll enjoy it, and so will others you bring with you!

GOLF ANYONE?

The Spring Hill church has supported TCM International for many years. This year's Golf Outing to provide student scholarships will be at the Hillview Country Club in Franklin, IN Monday, June 8 at noon with a shotgun start. The scramble format tournament registration fee includes greens fees, car, on-course refreshments and a dinner following the event. (Rain date is June 15.) The player fee is \$100, or \$360 for a foursome. Awards and contests are as follows: 1st Place Team: \$100 per player, 2nd Place Team: \$50 per player, 3rd Place Team: \$25 per player and special awards for the longest drive, the closest to pin and a hole-in-one. Call the church for contact information.

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back with regrets and disappointment that our priorities were not reflected on our calendar?

Like I said earlier, this particular weekend I could count 20 families in the same position that I found myself in. Most were also frustrated and feeling helpless. Most of my friends find themselves making this no-win choice at some point in the year depending on the season. Many families are even sacrificing rest and are so busy and going so hard that they are making themselves physically sick.

Could there be a better way? What if we ALL joined together and said, "NO! No more sports on Sundays!"? When we were kids, there was never anything scheduled on Sundays. We never had to choose between sports and church. Sundays were saved for church and family and gathering with friends. Can we reclaim our Sundays if we all worked together?

I propose that we give it a try! I also will say that even if our society won't cooperate, for me and my family I will do what I can to maintain consistency for my children to be at church and build relationships with other kids and youth who know and love Jesus! I will not tell you what is best for your family... I will encourage you to take some time out to prayerfully consider this, talk it over with your spouse, and make sure your priorities determine your calendar and not the other way around."

I know many families that have these same struggles. This is why I am always so overjoyed and encouraged when I see a family that normally would be at second service, attending the 8:30 service with kids suited up for the game that was scheduled for later that day. Despite the hectic schedules, they are making a choice as a family to put God first. And that sends a powerful message to the kids that God does matter in this family. Continue to *connect, grow* and *serve* Him together! -Steve

Don't forget to pray for your one! *Ask them to church with you this next Sunday!*

To reserve any part of our building for any private function, please contact the church secretary during office hours Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Note: Church functions will always supersede all other functions.



Senior Minister,
Steve Reeves

The following was sent to me from a friend and it's something so relevant to so many.

WARNING: The following may make you uncomfortable. . . *may even make you mad!*

"Last Sunday morning I found myself sitting on a soccer field with one of my children for a tournament game. It was a beautiful morning. The sun was shining. I was enjoying some fabulous coffee.

I was also experiencing great frustration and conflict. I was frustrated because I could count 20 families from our church who were also at sports games that morning. This meant that these families were not at church. I was also conflicted as I reflected on how I got into this situation. My husband and I know the value of church family. We know that consistency is very important for our children to build relationships with their church family and to grow as disciples of Jesus. We have made many decisions over the years to say "no" to other things in order to say "yes" to church. And, yet, here I was on a soccer field on a Sunday morning! A couple weeks earlier the coach gathered the parents around and presented this opportunity for the soccer tournament that would land on a Saturday and Sunday. The way it was put to us, I felt like I had no choice but to participate. The team wouldn't be able to play in the tournament unless everyone chose to play. If we said no, we would be letting down 12 other kids.

So, here I was sitting on the sidelines of a soccer game contemplating the predicament of so many families. Many families I've talked to about this feel like they have no choice for a variety of reasons. *Maybe it's a sport that our kids love, maybe there are opportunities that would be missed if we pulled our kids, maybe we feel an obligation to a team, maybe there's real potential in our little athletes that may never be recognized.*

There are many reasons that we come to the decisions that keep our families away from church. I completely understand how we get there – but I also know the long term effect that missing church will take on our families. And that's the predicament that has been tormenting me.

Now, I'm not saying that one missed Sunday is going to derail your children's spiritual growth. But I have noticed that our society is set up to undermine this discipline of regular fellowship with our church family. So unless we are very vigilant to protect our church commitment, we can quickly find that one Sunday missed has become many Sundays missed, and before long church has ceased to be a habit and is reduced to something we do when we don't have anything else to do on Sunday mornings.

When we say "yes" to one thing, we are saying "no" to something else. I have seen it too easily happen that without meaning to reject church, families are saying "yes" to extracurricular activities – but this "yes" is also a "no" to consistency at church activities and developing relationships with our church family. I have spoken to so many parents who spend years on the field, at the pool, on the ski slopes, in the gym, or in the studio and when they get to the other side of these years have deep regrets. Their children don't want to go to church, they don't have relationships with peers or leaders who know and love Jesus, and they have not developed the discipline of making church a priority. These parents who now have grown children have expressed that they would do it different if they could go back and do it again. I have had several parents with grown children express that it was not worth it. They did not carefully guard their priorities and allowed other commitments to push out what was most important. They can look back and see that the time spent on other activities directly affected their children's relationship with church and this directly affected their relationship with God.

Church attendance is not the goal. . . however, church is the way that God has provided for people to grow in their knowledge and love of who God is and build relationships with other disciples and from this time of focusing on Jesus and connecting with others who love Jesus we can go out into the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ and his love with others.

I'm back to my predicament. . . I know that church is important. . . I also feel like I don't have a choice sometimes. *Can we learn from the parents that have gone before us? Can we step back a bit and think about the adults that we are raising? What if our children get to their early 20's and have no relationship with God or other disciples of Jesus? Will we look back and say, "Well, at least they made it to the championships!?" Or will we look*

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