

# the Lamp

April 2005

Volume XXXV

Number 4

..as a light

shining in a dark place.

2 Peter 1:19



## What's Inside

## The Trip

### Daily Bible Reading

Here's a tip for keeping up with your daily reading. As you read each day, mark what you read with a highlighter. This way if you read ahead or if you miss a day or two, you can easily pick up where you left off.

### Ministry Highlights

Have you been wondering what all this *FUSION* business is about? Read the article inside from Jeff Kovitz and be more in touch with the great work going on in our youth group.

### Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of April.

### Communion Preparers

Vivian , Kyle & Kayla Whigham

### Greeters

Robin Keenen, Melissa Watson,  
Bill Shropshire

### Contribution Counters

Debbie Brown & Esther Scott

Think back to when you were a child and your dad told you that you were going on a trip. He told you about the places you would go and the things you would see. He told you how great it was going to be. He told you how long it would take to get to these different places. Obviously, you didn't fully comprehend everything he was telling you, but it sounded pretty exciting. The best part was that your dad said you could bring your best friend. As you waited for the day of departure your excitement was building; and then in the middle of the night your dad came and got you up and put you in the car and you knew it was happening. When you awoke, the first question you asked was, "Where are we?" and then, "When will we get there?" The ride seemed longer than you expected and you thought you would never get there; but when you arrived it was everything your dad had told you about, and more.

This is the journey of Faith! Our Father in heaven has invited us to go on this journey that ends in our glorification with Him. He has told us what this journey will be like through the Scriptures: John 16:33 (NIV) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." And He has sent His Holy Spirit to guide us each and every step of the way: John 16:7 (NIV) "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

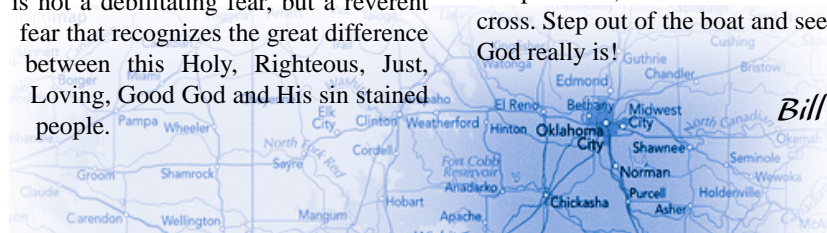
Why am I not excited about this journey? Why do I hesitate to go? Why am I afraid to invite a friend? Simply put, you don't trust your heavenly Father. You do not "KNOW" Him. The Scriptures tell us in Proverbs 9: 10 (NIV), "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." This fear is not a debilitating fear, but a reverent fear that recognizes the great difference between this Holy, Righteous, Just, Loving, Good God and His sin stained people.

The God of the Bible is pure goodness and pure love like none of us have ever experienced in this life. This same incredible God has clearly defined that there is only one way for anyone to come to Him, and that is through His Son Jesus. John 14: 6 (NIV) "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" God also said that it is His sovereign choice who will receive mercy and be drawn to Himself. Exodus 33:19 (NIV) "And the Lord said, 'I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.'" And John 6:44 (NIV) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day." These statements should make us comfortable, but because we don't know God - it does the very opposite. These statements should make us comfortable because salvation is in the hands of God. It is not up to us to save someone else. Simply, we are supposed to seek the God who saved us by becoming Christ's disciples. This sanctification process includes exercising the spiritual disciplines of Scripture reading, prayer, fellowship, worship, and tithing.

Having undertaken this, invite a friend to join you on your journey. Then both of you may enjoy this journey together as you endure the trouble of this fallen world, and grow into the likeness of Christ. God is faithful to His promises, even when it hurts as much as the cross. Step out of the boat and see how great your God really is!



Bill Keenen



1 Exodus 27,28 Matt. 21:23-46	7 Lev. 24,25 Mark 1:23-45
2 Exodus 29,30 Matt. 22:1-22	18 Lev. 26,27 Mark 2
3 Exod. 31-33 Matt. 22:23-46	19 Numbers 1,2 Mark 3:1-21
4 Exod. 34-36 Matt. 23:1-22	20 Numbers 3,4 Mark 3:22-35
5 Exodus 37,38 Matt. 23:23-39	21 Numbers 5,6 Mark 4:1-20
6 Exodus 39,40 Matt. 24:1-22	22 Numbers 7 Mark 4:21-41
7 Leviticus 1-3 Matt. 24:23-51	23 Num. 8-10 Mark 5:1-20
8 Lev. 4-6 Matt. 25:1-30	24 Num. 11-13 Mark 5:21-43
9 Lev. 7-9 Matt. 25:31-46	25 Num. 14,15 Mark 6:1-32
10 Lev. 10-12 Matt. 26:1-19	26 Num. 16,17 Mark 6:33-56
11 Lev. 13 Matt. 26:20-54	27 Num. 18-20 Mark 7:1-13 058
12 Lev. 14 Matt. 26:55-75	28 Num. 21,22 Mark 7:14-37 059
13 Lev. 15-17 Matt. 27:1-31	29 Num. 23-25 Mark 8:1-21
14 Lev. 18,19 Matt. 27:32-66	
15 Lev. 20,21 Matthew 28	
16 Lev. 22,23 Mark 1:1-22	

# Ministry Spotlight

## Fusion Student Ministries

What is **FUSION**? Well according to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, one definition is: A union by or as if by melting, merging of diverse elements into a unified whole. What a great definition! That really describes what our Youth Ministry is all about, bringing Junior High and High School teenagers from various backgrounds and ethnic makeups together to worship, encourage, pray, teach, mentor and disciple others for the purpose of knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. The word **FUSION** as used by our Youth Ministry is actually an acronym that stands for **F**orm, **U**plift, **S**erve, **I**nform, **O**wn and **N**urture.

Why does **FUSION** exist? **FUSION** exists to **F**orm mentoring relationships with adults and peers, **U**plift God in prayer, **S**erve others, **I**nform the lost of Jesus' love, to **O**wn my faith and to **N**urture loving relationships with God and others. There are many activities used by **FUSION** to further God's kingdom. Some of these include 316, Uplift, Retreats, Cell Teams, etc. While I would like to describe them all to you in this newsletter, there is just not enough space or time to do each the justice they deserve. Instead, Justin and I would like to focus on only one, 316.

What is 316? First, the term 316 pertains to the scripture, John 3:16. Most all of us know this scripture by heart, but do we tell anyone else about it? 316 is an exciting weekly event (Sunday's from 5:00-7:00 PM) where **FUSION** students can introduce their spiritually lost friends to other **FUSION** students and to the very entry levels of Jesus and His saving grace. 316's aim is not simply to draw in students, but to ultimately reach whole families. **FUSION** students are encouraged each week to talk to their friends at school, work

or wherever they might see them during the week and invite them to 316.

How does 316 work? The event starts with what else but food! The kids get a chance to eat and visit with newcomers. After eating, Justin usually has games like four square, football, cards, etc. planned. Then it's time for the **FUSION** band Reborn to play a song or two with a message. Next are wacky and zany activities (eating bananas through hosiery for example) that actively involve the students. Last but certainly not least, Justin gathers contact information about each student, describes **FUSION** Student Ministries and invites them to other weekly **FUSION** activities like INFUSE, Cell Teams, etc.

316 has been a wonderful success! As **FUSION** students continue to invite more of their friends, we are getting to know more teens from the community. Since 316's inception, we have had significant contact with many different teenagers, most of whom do not have a church home. The current challenge from Justin is for the **FUSION** students to get 100 people to attend a 316 event. (Our current maximum has been 70-80 including adults.)

If this happens, Justin will grow his hair out until the **FUSION** family BBQ in May. Additionally, I have been told, Jeff Berger will do the opposite and shave his off!



Jeff Kovitz

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# April 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Meals on Wheels</i>	2
3 2:00 P.M. Elder/Deacon Meeting 5:00 P.M. <i>Fusion 316</i>	4	5	6	7	8 5:30 P.M. <i>FCS Dinner &amp; Auction</i>	9
10 6:00 P.M. <i>International Dinner</i>	11	12	13	14	<i>Fusion Equip</i> →	16 7:10 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. <i>Friendswood Community Prayer Breakfast@ FWD United Methodist</i>
17 <i>Fusion Equip</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23 8 A.M. <i>Elder/Deacon Breakfast Meeting</i>
24 5:00 P.M. <i>Fusion 316</i>	25	26 7:00 P.M. <i>Women's Ministry Kickoff Event @the Church Fellowship Hall</i>	27	28	29	30

## Birthdays

1 - Jenny Martin, Jerry Burns  
 3 - Dianne Westmoreland, Emily Curlin,  
 William Keenen  
 4 - Jared Veatch, Rhonda Warren,  
 Scott Mitchell  
 5 - Lorena Counterman  
 7 - April Meadows, James McCullum,  
 Martha McDonald  
 10 - Esther Speck, Matthew Berger

11 - Betty Thompson, David O'Brien  
 12 - Del Marshall  
 15 - Pam Biggs  
 18 - Carol Jones, Piper Boggs  
 19 - Megan Taliaferro  
 20 - Katie Kendall  
 21 - Carl Kovitz, Jake Watson,  
 Lindsay Kirklun  
 23 - Beverly Dement, Doris Kovitz  
 24 - Louise Hartman  
 25 - Spencer Vowell

26 - Sam Curlin, Ted Debner,  
 Derek Hollingswoth  
 27 - Leslie Smith  
 30 - Pat Boggs, Brian Main,  
 Jennifer Hanson

**Come to FCS's Dinner / Auction on April 8th** - Tickets are now on sale for Friendswood Christian School's dinner and auction. You will be served (with the help of our own youth group) a delicious spaghetti dinner from Olive Garden. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. Our own Ken Boggs will be the auctioneer. You don't want to miss this wonderful opportunity to support our Christian School. We do need volunteers to help with making desserts. Also, we are still taking donations of items. If you can help in any of these ways, contact the school office at 281.482.4087. *We appreciate your help!!*

**2005 Women of Faith: Extraordinary Faith Conference** - This conference will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Toyota Center. Sign up in the foyer or call Carol Berger at 281.992.7585 for more information.

**International Dinner on April 10th at 6 P.M.** CARE groups need to decide which country your group wants to represent. Please let Betty Dillon know. Also, if you are not in a CARE group, please come and bring a dessert.

**FWD Community Prayer Breakfast** will be Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at Friendswood United Methodist Church. The topic of this month's breakfast is Hope Village. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by contacting Ed Hoskins.

**Women's Ministry Kickoff Event** - Ladies, please plan to attend on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, in the church Fellowship Hall.

## **Our Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

*What an awesome church! You have truly amazed and overwhelmed us with your love and support. We are so grateful for the food, cards, visits, prayers and many other acts of love and kindness. God has been so gracious to let us feel His love and the warmth of your prayers. There is nothing on earth as comforting or powerful. Thank you. Bruce and I are loving the great meals you are sharing with us - and it's beginning to show!! Again, we cannot fully express how grateful we are to have such a loving church family. "And they will know you are Christians by your love" describes you perfectly.*

**All our love, Bruce and Kay Belk**



THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FRIENDSWOOD  
OUR LIFE IS TO KNOW CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED  
AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION  
WE FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSES THROUGH THE JOY OF ...



·REACHING SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN CHRIST  
·KEEPING THE UNITY OF CHRIST  
·SERVING OTHERS FOR CHRIST AND  
·DISCIPLING TO CHRIST



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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FRIENDSWOOD  
2051 WEST PARKWOOD  
FRIENDSWOOD, TX 77546

PHONE: 281.482.7966  
FAX: 281.482.9430  
EMAIL: KEESHA@FWDCOFC.ORG

#### MINISTERS

MIKE MCALISTER, PULPIT  
MIKE ROSS, OUTREACH  
JUSTIN BRUNER, YOUTH AND FAMILY

#### ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

##### SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 9:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.  
CARE GROUPS 6:00 P.M.

##### TUESDAY

LADIES BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.

##### WEDNESDAY

BIBLE CLASSES 7:00 P.M.

##### THURSDAY

LADIES CLASS 10:00 A.M.

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Here is the challenge from *FUSION* to the Church Body. 316 events have successfully been shown as one entry point into *FUSION* and the Church Body (teen's family) for non-Christians. 316 gets them through the door. We need your help getting the parents here and making them feel welcome, accepted, loved and plugging them into other aspects of *FUSION* or the Church Body itself. Justin and I both hope that you will help! Blessings on you and your families this month!

How does 316 work? The event starts with what else but food! Prepared by our various adult chefs and connoisseurs, the food is served buffet style giving the kids a chance to eat and chill for awhile and then come back for seconds. After everyone has had a chance pigout, Justin usually has some fun activities planned. A few include games like four square, football, etc and various card games like Nerts (ask the teens who is the most competitive at this, Hint: her name starts with a D). We have also had inflatable obstacle courses brought in! After everyone works off dinner, it is time to JAM! Our youth band, Reborn usually plays two to three songs with a message. Next comes the wild and wacky activities. Justin usually has 1-2 wacky activities planned that may or may not include things such as eating bananas through hosiery, wrapping each other up in plastic wrap and inchworming across the floor, watermelon or some sort of food eating contest, I think you get the picture. And for the finale the most important item, Justin takes time to pass out and have all the kids complete member/visitor registration cards. While the kids are filling these out Justin tells the visitors what *FUSION* is all about, describes the various weekly activities (Infuse, Cell Teams, etc) and invites them to keep on coming.