



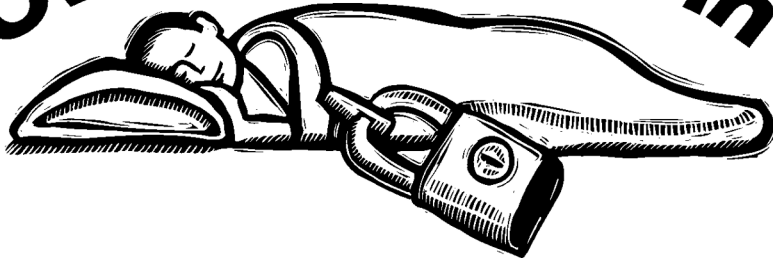
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**February 2012**

# Overnight Lock-in



Leader and musical guest. Guest speaker will be Lincoln Christian University student Mary Richardson. The theme for this lock in is "I Need A Hero". The kids will need plenty of snacks including soda, chips, cookies, and maybe some breakfast pastries. If you would like to purchase some of those items and donate them, you can leave them in the church kitchen.

Remember to pray for the youth as they fellowship together with other area Christian youth. And may God bless their time together.



*I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every friend on Earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me.*

-Abraham Lincoln

## EXERCISE CLASS



We took a little time off of exercise class during the holidays—probably a bad time to do that!

Anyway, we are resuming our exercise classes on Tuesday nights with Alicia

Hawkins leading the group. Our first of the new year will begin next Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 PM in Pitman Hall. This class is designed for both men and women to attend—so come join the fun!

Senior High youth from Virden First Baptist, Bethel Baptist in Kane, and First Baptist in Decatur will meet for a lock-in on Friday, February 17 starting at 7 PM until 7 AM on Saturday, February 18. They will be "camping out" at Pitman Hall though there's little guarantee of anyone sleeping—especially the adult sponsors from each of the three churches!!!

Matt Crocker will serve as the special Worship

## Young Adult Game Night planned

The young adult class will be sponsoring a game night on Friday, February 10 beginning at 6:30-9:30 PM in Pitman Hall.

This is designed to be a fun and casual evening for the young adults. Participants can bring a favorite game and a snack to share. Childcare will be provided at the home of Steve and Debbie Kershaw.



***"To love another person is to see the face of God."***

-Lyrics from *Les Miserables*, Claude-Michel Schonberg

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45	2  Hannah Henry	3  Wanda Hein	4  Dale Mullen
5  Communion	6  Don Price	7  Exercise 6:30  Linda Snodgrass	8 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45  David Lewis	9	10 Young Adult Game Night 6:30-9:30 	11
12 Diaconate meets after worship	13	14 Exercise 6:30	15 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00	16	17 Starts 7 PM   Overnight Lock-in	18 Ends 7 AM ABY Meets 10 AM
19  Food Pantry Sunday	20	21 Exercise 6:30	22 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>  Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00	23	24  Doris Weerts	25  Julius Turner
26 	27  Gretchen Henry	28 Exercise 6:30	29 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 Choir 8:00			

Welcome



Congratulations to Josh and Carla Snodgrass on the birth of their new daughter Lillian Charlotte Snodgrass.

Baby Lilly is welcomed home by big sister Abigail and big brother Aiden.

Lilly was born on Wednesday, February 1 and tipped the scale at 7 lbs 1 oz., and was 20 inches long. Congratulations to Josh and Carla on their new addition and of course to Grandma Linda as well!

***“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”***  
—Anne Bradstreet

### **An every day God**

A missionary was telling a Native American about Christ, the Son of God, and how we gather every Sunday to worship our Creator. The man was curious why Christians worship together each week. “Does this God come only on Sundays?” he asked.

How would you have answered?



Friends,

As I sit to write this I letter we are just a few hours away from the biggest football game of the year. Many of you will join me in sitting in front of a television somewhere and watching a meaningless game for many of us since our teams didn't make it. But there are always the commercials. But if you stop to think about all of the time we will put into making snacks, eating food, watching the game, the commercials, talking with friends, and how much effort goes into that, it's as if this football game is more like a holiday.

I love football, and all sports for that matter. But as I sit and focus on how much useless effort I put into something like a game, I start asking myself do I as a Christian put this much effort into my relationship with Jesus Christ. Do I know just as much about my God as I do the two teams playing today? Can I recite his commandments, and rules to live my life by, like I can the stats of each quarterback in today's game?

Since the beginning of the year and for the next few weeks we have been and will continue to focus on getting spiritually fit, which will allow us to connect closer to God. When we focus on becoming spiritually fit we are allowing ourselves to be used by God in ways that we could never fathom.

So as the game ends, and another football season is completed, many players will begin workouts and planning for next season. What about you? Our game of becoming spiritually fit is just beginning. Are you working hard to make sure this upcoming year is a winning year for you?

With God all things are possible!

Pastor John



### **Pack Well**



During Lent, as we focus on Christ's journey to the cross, let's also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

### **Walking with God**

The essence of the Christian life is knowing God and walking with him. It's about sticking with him when the sky is blue and also when it's filled with clouds or choked with smoke. It's about walking with the Lord through thick and thin, and pressing on through every heartache and trial that happens to come our way.

—Greg Laurie

### **Volunteers needed for children's sermons and/or nursery**

Please be sure to get with Pam Hawkins for a chance to sign up to present the children's sermon or to stay in the nursery on Sunday morning during worship. You can volunteer to do one or the other—or both!

There is a calendar at the back of the church on which you can sign up to take a turn at whatever you feel most comfortable doing.

Thank you in advance for this important part of our ministry to our young parents.

## Ladies, Mark your calendar!

All women (ages 18 and older) are invited to attend a weekend retreat on Friday, March 30 – Saturday, March 31, 2011 at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. Our weekend theme will be “Defined”. We will be discussing how we get caught up in defining ourselves by how others see us, our titles, our mistakes or other earthly variables but how we should be defining ourselves. We will take a look at defining moments of Biblical Women and how God used them.

We will also be hearing from women in our sphere of influence and their defining moments. We will be lead in worship from local worship artists including our own pastor’s wife, Kelsey Parrish. We will spend time learning and growing in small groups, worship times, and individual quiet times. We have plenty of time to chat and eat as well. The cost for the weekend is \$25 payable to First Baptist Church- Decatur. Send your registration and fees to:

Women’s Retreat  
c/o First Baptist Church  
157 W. Jackson Street  
Virden, Illinois 62690



St. Valentine's sacrifice Every February 14, we celebrate the loved ones in our lives with cards, flowers and chocolate. But

Valentine’s Day has another meaning that’s been lost.

First declared a holiday by King Henry VIII of England in 1537, it commemorates the beheading of St. Valentine on February 14, 270 A.D. His crime? Performing wedding ceremonies after Roman Emperor Claudius II had outlawed marriage.

Valentine was martyred for faithfully doing the work God had given him. Although it’s good to celebrate love and marriage, let’s also remember the courage of a man who gave his life following his convictions.



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

