

Reflections on a Difficult Moment

by Pastor Rick Breusch

The revocation of Hilton Fyle's membership in our church on Sunday, February 17 was a difficult moment in the life of our congregation. When we go through a stressful time in our lives personally—or when a congregation journeys through a tough event—it often takes some time and distance to get a perspective on what has happened. That is no less true in this matter. Nevertheless, as I reflect on what happened, I have the following thoughts.

First and foremost, I'm grateful. I thank the Lord for giving us the grace and wisdom necessary to deal with this difficult matter in a way that honored Him and His Word. I am deeply thankful to this congregation for supporting your pastors and leaders as we sought to navigate our way through this issue. The overwhelmingly one sided vote in favor of the motion to revoke Hilton's membership and ask him to leave was a statement of trust in and support for the church's leadership. Many of you have gone out of your way to let me know that you appreciated the way the meeting was handled. I am also thankful for the competency and tone of the presentations by Cory Baugher, Dave Merz and Adrian Hoover at the meeting, for the leadership provided by Dick Shaw, our Church Moderator, and for the legal counsel provided by Bryan Prosek. I am most grateful to Glenn and Angie Myres and their team of prayer warriors who agreed to pray throughout the business meeting itself.

Second, I'm growing in my faith. I can't tell you today why the Lord allowed this to happen. Quite honestly, there was a time when I

just wished the whole thing would go away because the energy and time necessary to deal with it came at the expense of what I believed was more important to our present and future ministry. But we don't always pick our own battles. And, sometimes, even churches must deal with issues that seem, at the time, to be a distraction from more important matters. I had to accept the reality that the Lord was allowing this matter to rise to the surface in our church for reasons that He alone fully understands. Both life and ministry are like that. Part of trusting in and submitting to the Lord is letting Him set the agenda of our lives and our church.

Third, I believe we matured spiritually as a congregation on that Sunday. Recently, I discussed our situation with several other pastors. One of them had gone through two church discipline issues. He felt there was a benefit to his congregation in that people realized at a new and deeper level that they really did believe what they said they believed. I hope and pray that will be our experience. As a church, we had the opportunity to demonstrate that truth matters, that God's people need to be protected and that there's a God-honoring way to deal with conflict and confrontation. You rose to the occasion. You took a hard but necessary stand. You made the difficult but right decision. As a result, God will build and bless our church. Please keep praying for the church in this matter. Please pray for Hilton and Chris—that they will repent of their beliefs and find restoration either with us or another congregation. To God be the glory!

Food Pantry Volunteers Needed



Our food pantry here at church is in dire need of workers for Mondays and Thursdays. The duties are simple, not overly strenuous and do not require

much time out of your day. First Link (Columbus' community information and referral center) calls the volunteer worker (YOU) before noon on your assigned day with the name and phone number of two needy families and/or individuals within zip code 43229 (which is the zip code of KRBC). You then call those persons and make arrangements for them to come to church for food pick-up later that same day. The folks will arrive at church on their own (usually that afternoon), show their ID and pick-up their food order which you have already bagged and have waiting for them. For security reasons, it is preferable to have individuals pick-up their food orders by 4:30 p.m. when the church office closes and the KRBC staff leaves for the day. This way, you are not at church alone when the public arrives for their food pick-up. You do not deliver food to others' homes nor provide transportation to them. If you are interested in participating in this important outreach ministry to our community, contact Rita Lewis at 471-3916.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m.



Everyone in the KRBC church family and all of your friends are invited to be part of our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 15 at 10:00 a.m. With the wintry weather, it is hard to believe the day is nearly upon us! It is not too soon to invite family members and friends to take part in this joyous celebration of Christ's death for our sins and His resurrection from the dead to prove He is, in fact, the Son of God. Don't miss this opportunity to bring those who are important to you, so they will hear the wonderful story of God's redeeming love for us.

The morning will start with a delicious pancake breakfast followed by

a brief program to share the Easter story with children and adults alike. The children will complete an Easter craft while they wait for the egg hunt. A door prize will be given to someone whose name is drawn during the craft time.

Would you like to help to make this event a success? Sign up cards are on the welcome desk in the lobby or call the church office at 885-3929. Three craft preparation nights will be held February 27, March 5 and 12 to prepare eggs and crafts in the CE workroom. There will be many opportunities to serve on the day of the egg hunt.



America for Christ Offering in March

by Laura Hall

The America for Christ (AFC) Offering is the first of four American Baptist Church Offerings that are collected annually to support the work of various mission-related efforts around the country and the world. The focus of the AFC Offering is to reach out and meet spiritual and physical needs, changing lives through Christ-centered caring. Though we have been blessed as a church to send people to various countries around the world, we need to keep in mind that the United States is still the third largest mission field in the world.

To stay more closely linked to our giving, this year's AFC Offering will be used to support the work of the Dayton (Ohio) Christian Center. It is a faith-based Community Center that "nurtures youth, empowers families and promotes community." In recent years, our mid-high youth have traveled to Dayton to lend a hand to the full-time workers who minister to that community. The AFC Offering helps executive director Pastor Bob Bishop and his staff run before and after school programs with Bible study opportunities, teen employment as an alternative to the streets, family activity nights, crisis support, and case management services to the mostly low-income neighborhood. The center is in their 87th year of service and their monthly newsletter shares needs for prayer, everyday supplies to run the ministry, and a call for interested volunteers. It is clear that as Pastor Bishop once stated, they "want to empower people and let them know about the hope the Lord offers."

Our targeted goal for the AFC Offering this year is \$3,000. Offering starts March 9 and will be collected throughout the month. Prayerfully consider what you can give to meet the needs at our American doorstep. "For the love of Christ urges us on..." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Volunteers Needed for Holy Week Lunches March 17-21

by Barb Baroni

Each day from noon until 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall there will be a light soup luncheon followed by singing and a devotional message. Will you commit to help with the lunch one of the days? I need at least ten volunteers to prepare and serve the five lunches. It works best to have a team of at least two folks willing to work one of the five days. It is not a difficult meal to plan and is an enjoyable way to serve in the kitchen without the stress of planning a large event. We usually serve 20-60 people each day. You may volunteer as a couple or a group of friends or I can match you up with someone else. Please call me if you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to serve one of the days. My phone number is (614) 895-2120.



**Just a
Reminder!
Your
"baby bottle"
offering to
the Preg-
nancy
Decision
Health
Centers is
due on
Palm Sunday,
March 16.**



Steps of the Apostle Paul Cruise & Tour

November 5 - 15, 2008 9 Nights, 11 Days

Come grow with us as we venture on this fascinating biblical journey presented by Travel Escapes and escorted by Bill and Arlene Kinnell. Pastor Rick Breusch will provide the spiritual leadership.

Contact Pastor Breusch 885-3929 or Bill & Arlene Kinnell (480)641-0609

