

# sbc family news

• www.spencerportbiblechurch.org • volume 3 • issue 1 • feb 2009 • pastor tom balentine •

## “... rather, serve one another in love.”

The above words of the apostle Paul to the Galatians (5:13) speak of one of the greatest gifts we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, have been given – the gift of serving one another. The personal, one on one walk that we enjoy with our Lord and Savior is indeed very special. But being called into relationship with God is more than that. It is also becoming part of the greater body of believers: becoming an active part of the Christian community. In his letter to the believers in Rome, Paul spoke of this in terms of parts of the body, each part having an important role in making the body function, in the body being successful in its endeavors. And serving is one of the parts mentioned:

*“If it is serving, let him serve”- Romans 12:7*

**Yes, each one of us** has been given certain gifts, blessed by God with abilities that He would have us use to serve one another. To have such gifts and not to use them is to deprive others of blessings that were given to be shared. I have often looked at God’s gifts of service to His people in terms of a jigsaw puzzle. Like the puzzle, when all pieces are used and in place, a beautiful picture results. But if one or more pieces are missing, no matter how many are there, you still notice the holes in the picture, and recognize it as incomplete. Similarly, when gifts are not offered or used, there are gaps in what is being offered and what is being experienced by the community.

**In the weeks and months ahead**, you will be hearing more about service opportunities at Spencerport Bible Church. What are your spiritual gifts? What gifts of service has God given to you through His grace? Have you used those gifts to serve others in the SBC community? The church consists of a broad range of ministries, with opportunities for everyone.

**To have such gifts and not to use them is to deprive others of blessings that were given to be shared.**

**What interests you?** Think of those activities that are a part of church life in which you could become an active part. Don’t know whom to approach? Here are a few of the elders and deacons, and their areas of responsibility:

**Elders:**

- Tom Clement: adult education
- Jim Reed: missions / evangelism
- Dave Peterson: children’s ministry
- Dennis Burdette: communication (including newsletter)
- Larry DeWolf: member care



*(Continued on page 5)*

## Volunteering in Youth Ministries

**Flower City Work Camp** is unique among the service opportunities our teens are presented with. Many ministries targeted at youth, or at introducing youth to ministry, focus exclusively on the students involved. Flower City asks the entire church to consider how they might be a part of this service ministry. Although only the teens attend the camp, adult volunteers are critical to the work. While serving as a sidewalk club or worksite leader involves sacrifice of family time and vacation days, it is a huge encouragement to our young men and women as they seek to serve and evangelize in downtown Rochester. We are so pleased that the Lord has led some of

you to serve in these full-time positions for the week. There are also many opportunities for those who wish to be involved on a less time-intensive basis with Work Camp. I would love to talk to you about these opportunities.

**Beyond Flower City**, our youth ministry is always in need of volunteers. With their enthusiasm to serve and participate, our students are continually bringing friends, relatives, and schoolmates into



*(Continued on page 5)*

# *Opportunities in children's ministries*

## **God's Girls**

I am blessed by this group of young ladies! Last year started off with painting and decorating our meeting room. They did a fine job and are available for ministry if you have painting needs! Last year and again this year, we had the unique opportunity to personally write over 100 notes to be placed in Christmas cards with locally organized "Cartons for Christmas." The girls simply and beautifully shared the gospel with those who would receive a carton of food throughout the Spencerport area. This ministry allowed us to spend over \$800 of donated monies to acquire specific items. The girls were responsible to choose the items within their category and within their budget. We impressed other shoppers and ourselves! We were within one dollar and pennies at the cash register! We also met at St. John's with folks from the community to help organize the food contributions. I look forward to being a part of this ministry each year with the girls.

Each girl has something with which God has gifted her. We have taken these talents on the road and visited Wedgewood Nursing Home, the Ronald McDonald House and dear Truey Cooper. With violin, piano, French horn, clarinet, stories and song, we have shared Christ's love with many. Recently we made our second meal at the Ronald McDonald House. The girls are quite adept at peeling and chopping, laughing and crying (onions). We made hearty chicken soup and homemade apple pies! Ask a God's Girl if she loves de-boning a chicken!!

Last year, four of the girls attended Flower City Work Camp, furthering their fervor to share the gospel. Several have worked at Hickory Hill the past two summers. This same desire to share Christ is what motivates them to travel to Italy in July of 2009. They have made over 125 custom greeting cards to help fund this trip. They are continually looking for more opportunities to earn funds to enable them to go. Please support them in this endeavor with prayer and service opportunities. Need a meal, babysitting? We are teaming up with Boy's Brigade to further raise funds for Italy in the coming months.

Areas of need? Prayer. These girls are amazing. I know Satan would love to attack. Please hold them up in prayer. Additionally, if you have a talent to share with them, please let us know. Our treasured Truey spent an evening with the girls last year teaching them how to make apple pies. We were so, so blessed. Junell has shared her love for sewing. The Anson family taught them self-defense. Susan Peterson has shared her love for card making. These are timeless skills, ones which further equip these teen girls for their years ahead as godly women.

We are very interested in YOUR needs. I think

Pastor has taught us well that love is not about us; it's about the other person. What are your needs? How can God's Girls serve you? I watch these girls mature in Christ as they serve with joy.

God's Girls is a means by which your young girls transition into godly young women. They are a treasure. I thank you for the privilege to grow in Christ at their side!

— Sandy Boe  
with Janet Collins

## **Pioneer Girls**

Pioneer Girls is a church-sponsored club program for girls in grades 1-6. We are in the middle of our 21<sup>st</sup> year of having Pioneer Girls at SBC.

It is a ministry to children, like our other children's ministries, where we strive for building faith, forming friendships, and having fun doing it.

Pioneer Girls has been blessed through the years to have a team-teaching format, thus providing a smaller teacher to student ratio. We are thankful for our competent, confident, and committed women leaders. This program seeks to help the girls build relationships with adults, peers, and, most importantly, Jesus Christ. The teaching is Christ-centered, Bible-based, kid-focused and flexible. All is accomplished in a hands-on, non competitive learning environment. We stress following Christ is every aspect of life during the Bible exploration and memory verse work and weave it into the life application skills. Our prayer is to plant the seeds for spiritual transformation during and after their Pioneer Girls years.

Currently, there are 7-1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade girls, 11-2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls, and 10-5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls attending. Thirteen girls do not attend SBC. We are happy to have the community respond by verbal invitation and after attending our Vacation Bible School. The teamwork is evident among our "guides", who conduct our weekly Sunday evening meetings. They are Mrs. Dodie Glende, Mrs. Deb Page, Mrs. Patti Radel, Mrs. Karen Ricketts, Mrs. Tracy Scholze, and Mrs. Toni Walz.

Here is how YOU can help! In addition to the weekly club meetings, there are several all-inclusive special events throughout our Club year. Women available and willing to come and share a hobby, a passion for missions, or community outreach would be greatly appreciated. Pioneer Girls provides unique opportunities for all women to present and expose our Pioneer Girls to different crafts, skills, and personal stories.

To get more information on helping out occasionally, contact Mary Jane Clement at 594-0249.

"Variety is the spice of Club life at SBC!"

— Mary Jane Clement

## Christian Service Brigade

The ministries of Boys' Brigade (Tree Climbers for grades 1-2 and their Dads, Stockade for grades 3-6, and Battalion for teen boys) always welcome men to help out in large or small ways. We have had great participation on the part of Dads at meetings and camp events, which is an opportunity to grow through fellowship with other men as well as to serve as a role model or servant to our boys and learn the various skills of leadership. The boys always enjoy a chance to see men sharing their gifts and interests.

We have a special opportunity to serve this spring as we host the Spring Stock-a-rama (for Stockade) and Camp-o-rama (for Battalion) at Camp Hickory Hill May 15-17. We have been planning all the games and competitions, and will be taking along a group of men from the church to help run the events. By doing this, we will be freeing up other men to enjoy the event with their own boys, and ensuring that everything is run effectively.

— Barry Ricketts

## Children's Sunday School

Sunday School provides children with an hour of Bible study from 9:30 to 10:30 Sunday mornings, for small groups of children grouped by age: Twos and Threes, Fours and Fives, Primary (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), Middler (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade), and Junior (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade). There is also a class taught by Lee Balentine for teens in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Attendance is smaller than during church, and the available time is longer, making this a good time for digging into the Word in a way that meets real needs. Teachers generally make a long-term commitment to a class (though some alternate quarters with another teacher, or find other ways to share the task). A surprising number of our current teachers, from first grade up, are men, but women are welcome!

At this time we have teachers for every age except Junior High, which is combined with High School; we would like to be able to separate these age groups again to meet their very different needs. In addition, we need a pool of substitute teachers who can fill in for those who are sick or away; some classes currently combine with others on those occasions. Some teachers would undoubtedly enjoy a sabbatical year or quarter to allow them to refresh themselves by learning in an adult class or participate in other ministries; long-term substitutes would make this possible.

Could you help? If you are a member of the church, we would welcome you as a substitute for either occasional needs or an extended period. If you want to get some experience working with kids, you may want to ask about helping a teacher regularly or occasionally with an age group you think you would enjoy. Or you could start in another of our children's ministries!

— Dave Peterson

## Children's Church

This ministry complements our Sunday School by giving children through grade 4 an alternative to the sermon during church services (about 11:15 to 12:00 each Sunday). We include children in the first part of the regular service so they can feel part of the body, experiencing the singing, scripture readings, prayer, and other aspects; but at parents' discretion young children are welcome either to stay during the sermon or leave for Children's Church. We have classes for Twos and Threes, Four years through first grade, and Second through Fourth grade. These classes are somewhat larger than in Sunday School, and focus primarily on a Bible story, with games, snacks, and crafts according to the attention span and needs of the age group. Teachers take a class for one quarter (September through November, December through February, March through May, or June through August), often repeating year after year, and commonly work in pairs or bring along a helper. Children often look forward to a familiar teacher's term and the special style they bring.

We have a special need for *more teachers*, as some of our old favorites have moved away or had health problems. We can use you as the main teacher if you are a member and have a desire to help children; if you want to help with a class, you need not be a member. Curriculum is provided, and the children will be very supportive of you too! The commitment is for only three months, so you will not miss the service for too long. Teens have often worked as either teachers or helpers in this ministry.

For either Sunday School or Children's Church, please see me.

— Dave Peterson

## Vacation Bible School

Remember the fun we had last year, turning the church into a farm and growing the Fruit of the Spirit? Keep your schedules open for a repeat performance this summer, July 20-24.

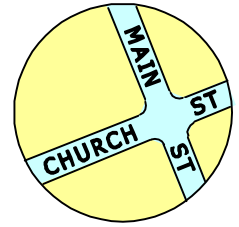
We have no details yet, but planning will begin soon, and we can use just about any gift you have as we work together in this big project. If you have any ideas to share with us that might make it better, more effective, or just a bit easier on all of us, please let Mary Jane or me know.

— Dave Peterson



# Atheists vs. the Big Bang

INTERSECTIONS



Dave Peterson

When you hear the phrase “Big Bang”, you may think of atheistic scientists trying to explain the origin of the universe without God, by replacing creation with a random explosion. You may be surprised to know how hard atheists have fought against this idea!

**Until the early twentieth century**, scientists who studied the universe could assume that everything had continued essentially the same forever. The universe was thought of as basically static, with all the stars staying where they are, scattered more or less evenly throughout space and never changing significantly. Then it was discovered that the stars we see are only one of many “galaxies” in the universe, and that certain of the smudges seen in telescopes were in fact whole galaxies of stars millions of light-years away from ours. The complexity of the universe was far greater than anyone had guessed.

Then, studying light from those distant galaxies, it was found that they are traveling away from one another at great speed; that meant they must once have been very close together. The universe is expanding, and it can’t have expanded forever. It must have had a beginning!

Einstein had already seen this fact as a consequence of his theory of general relativity, but had adjusted the theory (adding an artificial “cosmological constant” to his equations) to make it fit the *assumed* fact that the universe was static. Only after expansion was observed did he realize the mistake he’d made in trusting his assumptions over his theory. He then acknowledged that there was both a creation and a creator (though his idea of a creator was an impersonal god, not one who loves and saves us).

**Yet many scientists refused to accept** that there was a beginning to everything, because it meant science could not study what happened before that beginning, and because they didn’t want there to be a God behind it all (with the moral absolutes such a God involves). So they opposed the theory of cosmic expansion from a creation event. It was one of these opponents, Fred Hoyle, who coined the name “Big Bang”, hoping to destroy it by ridicule. (Hoyle complained that the theory “requires a recent origin of the Universe that openly invites the concept of creation.”) The name, which suggests a random, unplanned, destructive explosion, really does not fit the theory; rather, the theory just says that the universe began from nothing, which suddenly turned into something, and continues to spread out, forming stars and galaxies. Scientists have, in fact, found tremendous order in this unfolding of the universe, such that a minute change in the characteristics of the initial creation would make life impossible anywhere in the universe. It is a carefully designed, creative “explosion”, more like a rocket launch than a bomb — call it the “Big Launch”, if you prefer.

## Opponents of the “Big Bang”

developed alternative theories to explain away the observed expansion. One of these, Hoyle’s “Steady State Theory”, supposed that as the universe expands, new matter is continually being created between the galaxies, so that the expansion can have gone on forever in the past. But both the evidence and theory argued against such views, and they have been mostly abandoned today. Other alternatives continue to be explored (such as ways for our finitely old universe to be just a “bubble” in an infinitely old “multiverse”, so that *something* material, at least, could be eternal), and new refinements clarify the details; but the fact that our universe had a beginning is now hard to deny.

**Though evidence like this** can’t tell us the details of who God is and how He relates to man — that requires “special revelation”, in which God tells us directly about Himself — it does show that God exists,

**The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

and something of His power and nature. As Paul said (Romans 1:20), “since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” In particular (Psalm 19:1), “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” These verses describe what is called “general revelation” – the ways in which God reveals facts about himself through means that are accessible to all people, rather than just to those who have His prophets and scripture. And if nature reveals God’s existence and power in a general way to all, it should not be surprising that science, studying nature more closely, can discover more details of that general revelation (including the expansion that is hinted at by Isaiah 40:22, 45:12, and Jeremiah 10:12). The more unbelieving scientists use their theories to cover up what God reveals to all, the more they discover of these very truths!

**Why have scientists**, for the most part, not acknowledged that their discoveries point to the existence of God? Some, like Einstein, have. Astronomer Robert Jastrow, who calls himself an agnostic, says this about the discovery of the Big Bang, in his book “God and the Astronomers”:

*For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of igno-*

*(Continued on page 5)*

# How You Can Help the Library

LIBRARY



Ginnie Peterson

1. **Take a book out for an airing** (reading). Some very good ones have yet to leave the room.
2. **Return items that have been out too long**, so others may enjoy them. Please ask if you're not sure what you have out.
3. **New! Fill out an evaluation form** to let other readers know your thoughts on a book (your

name optional). These will be posted on the inside library bulletin board.

~~~~~  
 "Prefer knowledge to wealth, for the one is transitory, the other perpetual." -- Socrates

(Youth ... continued from page 1)

the youth group. There is a continual need to disciple these young men and women of the church. Believers with all different types of giftedness can be such a blessing to them. Many of the students have a particular desire to have an adult come alongside them in a discipling relationship, to encourage them as they grow in Christ, answer the questions they encounter, and hold them accountable as they strive to pursue holiness. At other times, they need someone to make them cookies for youth group, introduce a new game, or simply provide another set of eyes and ears so that we can have more activities.

Any adults who love the Lord and have a desire to help their brothers and sisters in Christ can have a ministry to the students as they navigate their teenage years. Many adults who grew up in church have a cherished recollection of an older brother or sister who took the time to love and encourage them when they were a teen. Could you be that person for one of our youth?

(Intersections ... continued from page 4)

*rance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.*

But many simply refuse to submit to any god, despite the evidence; faith is a matter of the will, not just of the mind, and those who want to continue in their sin will always find ways to ignore or work around the evidence.

**Ironically**, many Christians' emphasis on the apparent Biblical dating of creation persuades many scientists that, even if there is a god, it can't be the God of the Bible. Christians hold several different views concerning the timing of creation – how long it took, and when it happened. Even if your interpretation of the Biblical account of creation does not agree in detail with what scientists have found, you can at least point out that science now supports the first three words of the Bible: there *was* a beginning!

(Serve ... continued from page 1)

- Pastor Lee Balentine: youth and music ministry
- Deacons:**
  - Mark Gerringer: building & grounds
  - Warren Allen: financial secretary
  - Bill Radel: church clerk
  - Paul Renter: treasurer
  - Gene Clement: technical
  - John Jennings: nursery
  - Billy Cook: baptisms / usher-greeters / kitchen

The above list suggests only some of the areas of ministry within the church. There are many other areas of ministry that can use people who possess the willingness and ability to help.

As Spencerport Bible Church goes forward, serving God and serving one another, we ask that each of you prayerfully consider your gifts of service, and how you might share them in service to your brothers and sisters.

This month's newsletter focuses on places to serve among our children. But there is much more, as you can see. In future issues we will introduce other areas you may never have thought about; and you may see a way to share your gifts that none of us had considered.

*Our elders and pastoral staff:*

- |                 |                                                                                       |                                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tom Balentine   |  | Pastor                                                                  |
| Dennis Burdette |  | Communication<br><i>(newsletter supervising editor)</i>                 |
| Tom Clement     |  | Adult Christian Education                                               |
| Larry DeWolfe   |  | Membership                                                              |
| Dave Peterson   |  | Children's Christian Education<br><i>(newsletter production editor)</i> |
| Jim Read        |  | Missions and Evangelism                                                 |
| Lee Balentine   |  | Youth Pastor                                                            |

# February 2009

## Spencerport Bible Church Calendar

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                    | Monday                                                   | Tuesday                                                        | Wednesday                                                                                                   | Thursday                                                                                                        | Friday                                                                                                                                     | Saturday         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:30 AM<br/>Sunday School<br/>10:45 AM<br/>Morning Service<br/>5:00 PM<br/>Budget Q&amp;A<br/>5:45 PM Clubs<br/>No evening service</p> | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 PM<br/>Bible Institute</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p>                                                | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Ladies'<br/>Ensemble</p>                                                     | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>7:00 PM<br/>Smith<br/>Body Life Group<br/>7:00 PM<br/>Fellowship Com-<br/>mittee meeting</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00-9:00 PM<br/>Youth Group<br/>7:30 PM<br/>Read<br/>Body Life Group</p>                                               | <p><b>7</b></p>  |
| <b>Winter Camp-o-rama</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                                                                |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| <p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:30 AM<br/>Sunday School<br/>10:45 AM<br/>Morning Service<br/>5:00 PM<br/>Budget Q&amp;A<br/>5:45 PM Clubs<br/>No evening service</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 PM<br/>Bible Institute</p>  | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>7:00 PM<br/>Elders/Deacons<br/>meeting</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Ladies'<br/>Ensemble<br/>7:00 PM<br/>Missions<br/>Committee<br/>meeting</p> | <p><b>12</b></p>                                                                                                | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>7:00-9:00 PM<br/>Youth Group<br/>7:30 PM<br/>Read<br/>Body Life Group</p>                                              | <p><b>14</b></p> |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:30 AM<br/>Sunday School<br/>10:45 AM<br/>Morning Service<br/>5:45 PM Clubs<br/>No evening service</p>                               | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 PM<br/>Bible Institute</p> | <p><b>17</b></p>                                               | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Ladies'<br/>Ensemble</p>                                                    | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:00 PM<br/>Smith<br/>Body Life Group</p>                                                   | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:00-9:00 PM<br/>Youth Group<br/>7:00 PM<br/>Morgigno<br/>Body Life Group<br/>7:30 PM<br/>Read<br/>Body Life Group</p> | <p><b>21</b></p> |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:30 AM<br/>Sunday School<br/>10:45 AM<br/>Morning Service<br/>5:45 PM Clubs<br/>No evening service</p>                               | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>6:30-8:00 PM<br/>Bible Institute</p> | <p><b>24</b></p> <p>7:00 PM<br/>Elders meeting</p>             | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Ladies'<br/>Ensemble</p>                                                    | <p><b>26</b></p>                                                                                                | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>7:00-9:00 PM<br/>Youth Group<br/>7:30 PM<br/>Read<br/>Body Life Group</p>                                              | <p><b>28</b></p> |
|                                                                                                                                                           |                                                          |                                                                |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                            |                  |