

# Gage Park Baptist Church



Pastor Gordon Rhodes  
3601 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604  
272-7771  
office@gpbctopeka.org

March 28, 2012

## A Message From the Pastor. . .

Dear Church Family,

The following was taken from “And the Angels Were Silent” by Max Lucado. It has always caused me to do a lot of thinking at Easter.

You need to note that in his final prayer, Jesus prayed for you. You need to underline in red and highlight in yellow his love: “I am also praying for all people who will believe in me because of their teaching.” That is you. As Jesus stepped into the garden, you were in his prayers. As Jesus looked into heaven, you were in his vision. As Jesus dreamed of the day when we will be where he is, he saw you there.

His final prayer was about you. His final pain was for you. His final passion was you.

He then turns, steps into the garden, and invites Peter, James, and John to come. He tells them his soul is “overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” and begins to pray.

Never has he felt so alone. What must be done, only he can do. An angel can’t do it. No man has the purity to destroy sin’s claim. No force on earth can face the force of evil and win—except God.

“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak,” Jesus confesses.

His humanity begged to be delivered from what his divinity could see.

Jesus, the carpenter, implores. Jesus, the man, peers into the dark pit and begs, “Can’t there be another way?”

Did he know the answer before he asked the question? Did his human heart hope his heavenly father had found another way? We don’t know. But we do know he asked to get out. We do know he begged for an exit. We do know there was a time when if he could have, he would have turned his back on the whole mess and gone away. But he couldn’t.

He couldn’t because he saw you right there in the middle of a world which isn’t fair. He saw you cast into a river of life you didn’t request. He saw you betrayed by those you love. He saw you with a body which gets sick and a heart which grows weak.

He saw you in your own garden of gnarled trees and sleeping friends. He saw you staring into the pit of your own failures and the mouth of your own grave.

He saw you in your Garden of Gethsemane—and he didn’t want you to be alone.

He wanted you to know that he has been there, too. He knows what it’s like to be plotted against. He knows what it’s like to be confused. He knows what it’s like to be torn between two desires. He knows what it’s like to smell the stench of Satan. And, perhaps most of all, he knows what it’s like to beg

continued on page 2

## Coming Up!

April 8

Easter Breakfast 8:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m.

April 16

Executive Board Meeting  
(Tracy Bredow, acting moderator)

April 22

“Congregational Survey.” (See story page 4)

April 22 and 29

Silent Auction up and running...  
don’t forget to BID!

April 25

Deadline for June camp registrations

April 29

Compassion Sunday

May 6

Friends Choir musical  
during worship  
End of Youth Group Silent Auction

May 13

Praise Kids musical  
during worship

May 25

Deadline for July camp registrations

June 2

Youth Group trip to DesMoines

## Praise Kids News

Praise Kids, under the leadership of Melissa Tillery, are practicing for this year's musical. The kids will practice at 1 p.m. each week. Their schedule is as follows:

- April 8 Easter--No Praise Kids practice.
- April 22 Praise Kids sing during worship. Be here at 10 a.m. in the choir room.
- May 13 Mother's Day and Praise Kids Performance of the musical, Life Song during worship

Any questions may be directed to Melissa at 554-2301.

Richard Green retired from being Head Usher and is now living at Fairlawn Heights Assisted Living.

John Washburn volunteered to take over the duties of Head Usher officially and we thank him!

## Let's Go to Camp!

It is time to start thinking about Church Camp again! See [www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org) for schedules, forms and other information. Senior High (9-12) is at Ottawa July 15-20; Middle School (6-8) camp is June 25-29 at Cross Wind. Parents of Juniors, Primary and K-2, please see schedule to decide which camp you want. The church will pay 1/2 of the early bird discount fee. Your half of the fee and registration forms for June camps is due in the church office by April 25.

Your half of the fee and registration fees for the July camps is due in the church office by May 25.

Contact Becky Miller with any questions. 224-4698 or [miller4209@gmail.com](mailto:miller4209@gmail.com).

continued from page 1

God to change his mind and to hear God say gently but firmly, "No."

For that is what God says to Jesus. And Jesus accepts the answer. At some moment during that midnight hour an angel of mercy comes over the weary body of the man in the garden. As he stands, the anguish is gone from his eyes. His fist will clench no more. His heart will fight no more.

The battle is won. You may have thought it was won on Galgotha. It wasn't. You may have thought the sign of victory is the empty tomb. It isn't. The final battle was won in Gethsemane. And the sign of conquest is Jesus at peace in the olive trees.

For it was in the garden that he made his decision. He would rather go to hell for you than go to heaven without you.

May the Lord speak to you this Easter season.

Pastor Gordon

## Prayer List

- Bill Button - recovering from surgery
- Ray Canfield - health issues
- Sandy Farris - health problem
- Dale Parker - healing and health issues
- Jean Beld - dental problems
- Darlene Ramsey - still in nursing care
- Bob Horne - hospice
- Mark Loretto's Mother - hospice
- Lynda Foote - recovering from surgery
- Gary Pettijohn - healing

We have a prayer-caring ministry at GPBC. If you are aware of an illness, hospitalization or special need, please contact Pauline Hall, June Smith or Denzal Davison. They will share prayer needs.



Lauren McGovern pauses from her painting duties to offer a smile!

## Fresh Look

Tom and Lauren McGovern and Angela and Devin Locke used the first day of spring break to paint the music room. They will be putting on the finishing touches soon!



## Youth News

The Friends choir has performed in church twice since the beginning of the year. The picture below was taken in February after their first performance with director Jenni Berroth.



On March 25, the Youth conducted the entire worship service. We appreciate the efforts of Tricia Brown, Jenni Berroth and Hank Miller as they lead the youth in these important activities! The picture below was taken on the 25th.



The Youth will be having a Silent Auction on Sunday, April 22, 29 and ending on May 6. Thank you to all who have donated items or services. Be sure to bid on any or all three Sundays. Bidding will cease around noon on May 6.

Get your high school youth signed up for summer camp July 15 - 20! Middle school camp is June 25 - 29.

The Youth are planning a trip to Des Moines on June 2. They will be going to Adventureland!

## Lessons from Jamboree

At first when I went to Jamboree, I thought it was just going to be another church camp and it was at first. But then, I don't know what it was, but something went off in my mind and I knew Jesus knew I had sinned but He still loves me and He will always love me. I accepted Jesus into my heart as my Savior. The Jamboree changed my view on God and I feel very lucky that I got the chance to go! [Payton](#)

My trip to Junior High Jamboree has affected my life in many different ways. I have been more at peace every day. I have also gained a faith in God that will never fail. I have tried to become more obedient to God. It is now more important to me to spread the word of God than ever before. Most importantly, I have a better walk with God. [Devin](#)

Friday, we got there and signed in and went and sang. Then we listened to the message. We got up on Saturday and ate breakfast and went to worship. After breakfast, we had free time and me and Devin went to the paint ball course to plan. We had small groups and ate lunch. We went to worship then we had small groups and had to come up with a skit. We had three hours of free time to do paint ball, climb the rock wall and play mini golf. We ate supper and had worship where we could accept God into our hearts. We prayed for people and they got healed right in front of us. We had small groups and planned our skit some more. We went back to the cabins to get ready for bed. Some of us didn't go to bed because we weren't tired. So we were talking and this kid started preaching at like 1:30 a.m. We stopped at 3:45 a.m. In the morning, we ate breakfast and put our stuff in the van. We went to worship then came home. [Ryan](#)

The Junior High Jamboree taught me that you shouldn't be afraid about telling people Jesus has changed your life or Jesus spoke to you in a special way, it's about connecting with Jesus and not letting that bond go. The Jamboree is more than just a gathering, or social thing. That Jamboree is a chance to make a bond with God and make it stronger than ever and that's what happened to me at Jamboree.

At Jamboree there is more to do there like paintball, rock climbing, basketball, mini golf and more. But the part I really liked was when everyone went to the main building to sing with the band (students) from Ottawa University. They shared their stories and how Jesus had changed their life. There was one more person who was from California and she and her husband came here just to be at Jamboree and what she talked about was really inspirational!

On the last night we were there, everyone came to the front and a guy named Gino prayed for everybody personally and took the time to do about a 5 to 10 second prayer. Just because it is short doesn't mean it can't lift you up! After that we stayed up there and people came to the center and we prayed for them. When we were done praying they didn't feel any pain or thoughts that came to them. The theme was really important to me because it's about tuning yourself to God and putting yourself in his hands. ITUNE with God.....do you? [Abby](#)

## **Easter Cookies and Lesson**

To be made the evening before Easter.

1 cup whole pecans  
1 tsp vinegar  
3 egg whites  
pinch salt  
1 cup sugar  
zipper baggie  
wooden spoon  
tape  
Bible

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (this is important, don't wait until you're half done with the recipe!)

Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

**GO TO BED!** Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

*He is Risen!*

## **Save the Date April 22 — Please Come to Church If You Can!**

April 22 will be an important day in the life of our church. As most of you know, we have a Pastor Search team which is responsible for finding a pastor candidate for our church. As part of our contract with the American Baptist Region, we have been given resources to help us make a wise choice. So far, the board and the search team have completed profile information to help us identify the personality of our church. On April 22, Pastor Gordon will be taking the Sunday off, and Rev. Adriana Chaney will be facilitating a session during the worship service time that will help us tie together a profile of our church, which will be used to match us with prospective pastor candidates. The past year has been a period of trials, and awakening in the life of our church. It is a joy that the congregation has been faithful in its giving, and we will be financially able to hire a full time pastor. We have a concern that we hire the pastor best suited to lead our congregation and church in Christ's mission. We hope all church members will be with us on April 22 to share in worship and this opportunity to have a voice in determining our congregation's priorities in searching for new pastoral leadership.

Jeff Conrad, Pastor Search Chairperson

## ***This and That. . .***

Pat Navarre, who resides at Fairlawn Heights Assisted Living, was voted queen for a day on Valentine's Day. Congratulations Pat!

On February 21, Linda Rhodes shared with us her experiences with the mission team with whom she had journeyed. She has been to Nagaland (state in far eastern India which is mostly American Baptist!), India, Peru, Dominican Republic, Chile and Mexico. The team helped build churches and gave teacher training courses. These were not comfort journeys, but she was glad to live with the people in their conditions. Some of the teams she traveled with also had doctor members. We thank Linda for sharing, but more than that, we appreciate her dedication to God's work.

If you are sending checks, or anything of importance to the church, please send to our new mailing address:

Gage Park Baptist Church  
PO Box 4050  
Topeka, KS 66604.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

I am happy to report that because of everyone's continued giving and support, our savings balance now equals 100% of the designated funds and memorials. We had had to use this money in the past to "keep the lights on," but we've now been able to repay those amounts.

The Youth earned \$210 after expenses from their bake sale at the February potluck. They are earning money to take a trip to an amusement/water park in Iowa in early June. This will be combined with money they were donated for leaf-raking earlier this year. They received \$192 from Youth Sunday. Thank you for your support of our youth.

Our water bill in February was over \$300 (over three times the usual amount). We determined this was because of a toilet downstairs was running continuously for many days. It has an Out of Order sign on it and has been shut off until it can be replaced.

As of March 26, 2012, our contributions to the general fund is \$34,501 and we budgeted \$30,374.19, so we are 113.6% of budget for contributions.

Our expenses are \$22,976.05 and we budgeted \$21,151.38, so expenses are 108.6% of budget. Our net income is \$2496.44, so 126.8% of budget.

We've raised \$650 for America For Christ.

The balance in our savings account (designated funds) is \$26,307.01; the CD is at \$5972.13 and the checking account balance is \$18,837.69.

Becky Miller, Treasurer



## ***Victorian Tea***

Thank you to Wilda Davison and her helpers for the wonderful Victorian Tea on March 18. The tables were set with linen cloths and fancy dishes along with an assortment of tea pots and cups. The menu included fresh fruit, finger sandwiches, pasta salad, chicken salad and a variety of petite desserts. Of course, tea was served.

The atmosphere was lovely and the food was delicious. See pictures on page 6.

## ***Easter Lilies Can Rise Again!***

Families in the congregation have generously donated over 16 Easter lilies to decorate the church for Easter, most in honor or in memory of loved ones. We ask that lilies please be taken home by the donors after the Easter service. If you do not give the plant away to someone else, rather than throw the plant away after it is done blooming, you can save the bulb and plant it outdoors. Easter lilies can be replanted outside after the blooms are gone. Select a sunny site with well-drained soil. Set the top of the bulb six-inches below the soil surface. Cut off the old flowers, but leave the stem and leaves. Do not cut back the stem until it dies down in the fall; then cut it off at the soil surface. After the soil surface freezes in late fall, mulch the soil and do not remove the mulch until new growth begins in the spring.

## ***Communion Fund***

Your generous gifts to our monthly "Communion Fund" have made it possible for the Executive Board to authorize gifts of \$500 to Doorstep, \$500 to the Topeka Rescue Mission in February, and in March, \$300 was given to the Salvation Army for the Harveyville Tornado Relief.





*Elegance at the  
Victorian Tea!*



Ryan Irish greeted people during the March 25 Youth Service.

*Youth Worship*



Devin Locke shares during the March 25 Youth Service.

*New Member*

Greg Kramer joined the church on February 5. Greg has attended GPBC for many years and we appreciate all he does around the church. We are pleased to welcome him as a member!