

# Broadway Blast-Off



"I am the WAY the truth and the life." (Jn. 14:6)

We are surrounded by all kinds of "resurrections" every day. Just when it seems that something is dying, new life emerges.

He was one of the first celebrities among the early American colonies. **George Whitefield's** dynamic preaching and booming voice attracted tens of thousands to his outdoor revivals in England and early America during the 1730s and 40s. His Calvinist Methodism, a split from his Methodist contemporaries, John and Charles Wesley, influenced many of the Founders, especially Benjamin Franklin. Called by many as America's Spiritual Founding Father, Whitefield led the Christian "Great Awakening" along with Jonathan Edwards and John Wesley that led Franklin to say, "It seemed as if the whole world were growing religious."



Despite these accomplishments, Whitefield was most proud of and passionate about his founding an orphanage and school in Savannah, Georgia that he named, Bethesda, which means "house of worship." **ON THIS DAY in 1740** construction began on Bethesda, which educated, taught, and loved children of all ages.

At Whitefield's death, he willed Bethesda to a sponsor in England who was unable to manage the organization. In 1773, further tribulation struck as a fire destroyed the building and the Revolutionary War nearly destroyed plans to rebuild Whitefield's dream. Just when it appeared that Bethesda would finally die, it was "resurrected" by new administrators as *Bethesda Home for Boys*.

Later, it was renamed *Bethesda Academy* boarding school, which continues successfully today. Whitfield would be proud!

Just when it looked like death on a cross was a finality, new life emerged. No matter what crisis we face in life, including death itself, God promises new life. In Revelation, Christ the Lamb declares, "See, I make all things new!" The struggle may be painful, a death of all kinds may seem imminent, but hope never dies, faith never dies, love never dies, Christ never dies, and neither do we. Keep your eyes and ears open for new life of all kinds around us right now and in the near future.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Rob*



- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 — Graham Gaspard   | 10 — Roxanne Schupp   |
| David Oberkrom       | 11 — Carol Lemke      |
| 2 — Becky Ledgerwood | 12 — Becky Terrell    |
| 3 — Wes Brockman     | 16 — Carolyn Sperry   |
| 4 — Jody Baslee      | 18 — Christie Cable   |
| Jan Summers          | 19 — Beverly Crawford |
| 6 — Sandra Larson    | 27 — Brittney Gaspard |
| 8 — Mike Cowen       |                       |
| Mark Sheldon         |                       |



- 1 — Terry & Patty Estes (48)
- 18 — Bob & Mary McCarty (66)
- 21 — Max & Debbie Mitchell (36)
- 25 — Jim & Susan Van Horn (23)
- 30 — Jason & Tina Sneed (6)



## Fill the Cart in March!

Please bring non-perishable food donations to help the Otterville Food Pantry!  
Items can be dropped off at the church during the week.



A list of jobs needed to be done will be posted. Jobs can be done on your time table before Easter weekend.

More information soon!

## Presbyterian Women's Association

will meet April 2 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall.

### Friends & Dominos



Friends meet on Thursday, April 9 at 11:30am at Best Western.

Following lunch, return with the group to Fellowship Hall for dominos.



### Joys & Concerns

#### Healing/Comfort

Christy Cable - *Jeannie Cable's daughter*  
 Dee Cain - *friend of members*  
 Sandee Cook - *friend of Dixie Wilson*  
 Jim Cooney - *friend of members*  
 Tyler Dake - *Brenda Dake's grandson*  
 Katie Dake's uncle  
 Betty Hausam - *member*  
 Missy Hiatt - *Kathy Hiatt's daughter*  
 Dean & Maxine Horton -  
*Larry Horton's parents*  
 Frances Johnston - *friend*

Rebecca Kolsky—  
*Cristy Kolsky Poppinga's daughter*  
 Mike Knaus - *member*  
 Phoebe Moore - *member*  
 T.J. Price - *friend of member*  
 Alma Schupp - *member*  
 Hilary Teachout—*friend of Debbie Mitchell*  
 Shirley Tolan - *Karen Franklin's mother*  
 Colston Verfurth -  
*Mark & Marlene Sheldon's great nephew*

**Mission:** Chris & Greg Callison

**Our Presbytery Churches:** First Presbyterian Church, Vandalia

**Our Community Churches:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church

**Military:** Mason Elgin, Tyler Elgin, Olivia Gott, and Garrett Graeser.

# Inspire

*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."*

—Mahatma Gandhi

