

**Pastor's PEN – May 15, 2012**

**Dear Faithful Members and Friends of Crosspointe,**

**BACKING UP A FEW WEEKS!** I always try to get photos of our new members at **CBC**, but failed to do so last month when **Lin Blankenship** joined **“The Church That Believes the Bible and Loves People!”** Please add her to your church membership prayer list and directory, and remember to pray for her husband Carl, who is in a local nursing home with Alzheimer's. Lord willing, she is bringing him to church this Sunday night.



**WE HONORED OVER 100 MOTHERS!** Sunday was **Mother's Day**, and we had our **Moms** introduce themselves and tell how many children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great, grandchildren they had. It is a learning experience to listen to the mothers as they tell us about their family. We presented them with a 25 day devotional book for mothers! If you



be in our service or if you will be visiting one of our shut-ins, we have extras that you can pick up in the church office. Two mothers that deserve honorable mention are **Mrs. Dorothy Ray** who reported the total amount of family members. WOW – She has a B-I-G family! You may remember her husband **Fred** was saved in May and passed away a month later. The second mother is **Sheri Leeman**. She is our **newest mother!** **Elijah James** was born this past Thursday. On Friday I had the privilege of holding **Eli** and praying for him! OH, the joy of being a pastor and watching our Great God bless the sheep of our fold.



**FROM THE HEARTS AND MOUTHS OF OUR TEENAGERS – LINES LEARNED, A SONG SUNG, SCRIPTURE QUOTED & ANSWERS GIVEN** – Often we laud our teens for their athletic abilities and their academic accomplishments, and rightly so. The flipside of that is at times we are quick to draw attention to their failures, and sometimes even talk ‘out of school’ about them. Shame on us! How will a second generation ever have a hunger to serve if they live with criticism, correction and instruction 24/7? Honest praise works wonders! So with that said, I want to beat my drum for our teens and tell them I love them, appreciate them, and faithfully pray for them and their parents. We had some of the same struggles growing up and can relate to their pain and frustration. Over the last several days, four things happened with our church and school teens that serve as a reminder that many teens really want to do right with their lives:

- 1. THE PLAY** – *Three Murders and It's Only Monday* was incredible! The lines learned and the hours of practice revealed their ability and talent. Thank you cast for being a blessing (that touched our funny bone), and showing us your incredible potential. May God use them in His serve as they find and follow His will for their lives.
- 2. THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE. (Psalm 119:11)** - A standing ovation was the spontaneous response of our church family Sunday night when **Rachel Litza** (15) quoted **43 verses** on the theme of moral purity without a glitch. She was challenged to memorize the verses by **Pastor Schettler** at the

**TEEN PURITY CONFERENCE** this year. This sweet, unassuming teenage did it, not to have the praise of man, but for her own benefit. What courage it took for her to humbly stand before her church and quote verse after verse! Thank you, **Rachel!** We are very proud of you! We could not help but notice that **Mike**, her dad, and her grandparents, **Pastor & Sandy Pycraft** were proud too!



- 3. THE TEEN QUINTET** – Christy Piper, Karah & Kandra Titus, McKenzie Janke and Taylor Cochran were a blessing as they sang “**Complete in Thee**” in our evening service. These five teens represent families from home school, public school, and our Christian school. To see five of our teen girls sing from their hearts before our church family was noteworthy. God bless them for it! I am thankful for parents in our church that see our ministries as extensions of their homes, realizing we are for all of them, not just some of them!
- 4. THE ANSWERS GIVEN TO A VERY GOOD QUESTION** – The 11th & 12th grade Bible class at **CCA** was given this question last Friday -- **How does a person sit through a class on relationships, marriage and purity, and end up failing in these areas in their life?** Their answers are astounding! They reveal that they are paying attention to us! All the answers are worth reading, but the two below prove my point:

**Student #1** – *A person may have had a hardened heart when sitting through the class and not want to listen at all because they are bitter. It could be that what they observe in their home may not be a Christ-like example when seeing their parents doing their own thing and may think that it is o.k. for them. I also think that this is an always growing thing. I don't think someone one day just says, "Well I don't believe that stuff". Maybe this comes after one is out of the class and has surrounded his/herself with the wrong friends, who think it would be o.k. to do certain things that directly contradict the Bible. It is unclear sometimes as to why people can sit through something and completely disregard it, but all problems begin and end with the heart, mind, and soul of a person. (Heb. 2:12-15; James 4:4; Jeremiah 17:9)*

**Student #2** – *One reason may be that they are not saved. But assuming that they are saved, they may not be listening. They have hardened their heart and already made their decision about what they are going to do. They do all the right things, but their heart is not right. They have lost their first love. They take for granted that they are saved and use 1 John 1:9 flippantly. They are serving two masters, but in reality they are serving only one, the flesh and the Devil.*

Our teens and their parents warrant our prayers, deserve our love, need our encouragement, and desire our trust. May we spend time creating a hunger in their hearts and minds to love HIM more dearly, and serve HIM more faithfully.

**RACE DAY SCHEDULE** – The Indianapolis 500 will be held on Sunday, May 27. We will have our normal SS and am service followed by our usual “**Pitch-In Dinner**”. Please bring a main dish and a side or dessert for you and your family “plus one”! The church will provide paper products and drinks. We will start our afternoon service as close to 1:30 as possible. **Jessie vonBergen** will be preaching in the afternoon service. Jessie recently graduated from **Indiana Baptist College** and will be serving on staff and furthering his studies in the seminary there.

Love and prayers, *Pastor Arrowood*