

# Clifton Avenue Church of God

## Pastoral Ponderings

SPRING IS HERE!!!  
We can see our lawns again and things are growing all around us. I know, the weathermen are still teasing us about snow, but I'll be perfectly content if I don't see another snowflake until December 2010.

Some growth is inevitable like growing old, and I know most of us invest a lot of energy trying to deny the turn of the clock. Other growth comes through experience, as we give ourselves over to new ways of doing things or

learn new skills. Still other growth comes through the press of life that causes us to change even as we resist it.

Let us invite growth as a friend and affirm that God is at work in our lives to make us more effective servants in His Kingdom.

Our theme this month is Growing in Grace and we will examine the dynamics of growth in the lives of New Testament characters who in their pursuit of

God, found a deeper relationship with Jesus and others.

## He is risen and we are growing!

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## Counseling Corner Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Sometimes the events of life just don't fit together into coherent, meaningful patterns. How can we make sense of a past filled with sexual abuse? Why did God allow us to grow up in a home with an alcoholic? How does being the victim of physical, verbal, emotional abuse play a part in God's plan?

All of these questions are multiplied when we see how our painful experiences have led us to make bad decisions. We see that we have perpetuated the destruction by attempting to compensate for being sinned against in our developmental years.

The Teacher in Ecclesiastes was searching for the key that would unlock the door to life's meaning. The first part of Ecclesiastes gives us the Teacher's conclusion: "Under the sun," that is, on this side of eternity, some things just don't make sense. After recognizing this basic truth, he advised that we are called to recognize that life is God's good gift to us.

The Teacher's final conclusion, which admonishes us to reverence God and obey his commands, puts life into perspective. It creates the necessary boundaries to hold us back from selfish hedonism, while

still allowing us to enjoy the good things in life.

Sure life is God's good gift to be enjoyed, not a puzzle to be solved, Ecclesiastes helps us cope with our humanity. There will be some things in life that we will never understand. Rather than attempt to understand the inscrutable events in our life, the Teacher counsels us to enjoy the parts of life that do make sense and to entrust the rest to God's care.



## **Springfield House of Prayer**

616 N. Limestone  
Upper Level of Marriage Resource Ctr.

### **April Hours**

Please contact Ben at  
937-206-0124 or e-mail at  
[ben@vineyardnorthridge.org](mailto:ben@vineyardnorthridge.org)

## **Couples Get Together at the Gibsons...**

Saturday, April 24th @ 6pm

Bring a dessert or drinks

Please RSVP @ the church: 324-5398



### **The Benefits of a KIDS HOPE USA Mentor**

Some of the things I just love about KIDS HOPE USA:

- The way the kids' eyes light up when they first see their mentor each week.
- The unselfish caring given by the mentor and their genuine desire for their student's learning success.
- Seeing the mentor and student huddle together working intently over a problem and the squeal of joy when they get it right.
- The anticipation every week when kids keep asking "When is my mentor going to come?"
- The look in a child's face when the mentor is going to see him or her, and no one else, for possibly the whole time they go to the school they attend.
- Being asked by other students, if they can have a mentor, too.

I hope you are asking how you can get involved or how does Kids Hope work? You are matched with one child. This year we are matched with 1st graders. You meet one hour per week. You meet at school during the 1st grade lunchtime (11:40 - 12:40) with your one child. You choose the day of the week that works for you. You make a GREAT Difference in that one child's life!

Being a mentor is fun and a great honor. It is not too late to get involved! See me, Laura Hufford, or call me at (937) 536-6168



# Clifton Ave. Programs

## Pantry Outreach

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
 9:30am Breakfast  
 10:00-11:30 Pantry  
 If you want to volunteer, contact  
 Sis Debbie Hilliard

[uniqueblessed@aol.com](mailto:uniqueblessed@aol.com)

(937) 324-1138

## Crusaders

Wednesdays at 6pm.

## A Meal & Message

Thursdays 5:30-7:00pm  
 Free dinner, warm fellowship, a  
 word of encouragement

## Celebrate Recovery

Starts back up mid-April, Fridays  
 5:30-7:00pm  
 Get help/healing for Hang-ups,  
 Habits, & Hurts

**Sunday School: 9:30am**

**Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am**

Children's Church during preach-  
 ing (approx. 11:30)

**Sunday Evening Prayer:**

5:00-6:00pm

**We are on the  
 web....**

[www.cliftonavechog.org](http://www.cliftonavechog.org)

The earth is the  
 Lord's, and every-  
 thing in it, the world  
 and all who live in it;  
 for he founded it  
 upon the seas and es-  
 tablished it upon the  
 waters.

Psalm 24: 1-2

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEACHERS**

April 4th - No Children's Church

April 18th - Debbie H. & Martha

April 11th - TJ & Ashley

April 25th - Pastor Tina

Weeks	Tithes/Offerings	Needed	Attendance
02/28/10	\$1,903.12	\$3,000.00	50
03/07/10	\$2,680.70	\$3,000.00	72
03/14/10	\$1,591.08	\$3,000.00	58
03/21/10	\$1739.20	\$3,000.00	52
Monthly Total	<b>\$7,914.10</b>	\$12,000.00	58 Avg.
Prev. Month (February)	\$8,480.71	\$13,000.00	54 Avg.
Prev. Month (January)	\$8,408.75	\$13,000.00	49 Avg.



Donations accepted on the website through PayPal at <http://www.cliftonavechog.org/Tithe-or-Donate.html>

# April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 M&M: 5:30-7pm Betty Walters Bday	2 Kenneth & Sheila Applin Anniv	3
	S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm →					
4	5	6 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	7 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	8 M&M: 5:30-7pm	9	10 Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry
	S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm →					
11 George & Linda Crew Anniv Kenneth Applin Bday	12	13 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	14 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	15 M&M: 5:30-7pm	16	17 Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry Kathy Mann Bday
	S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm →					
18 Donna Dawson Bday	19	20 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	21 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	22 M&M: 5:30-7pm	23	24 Couple's Gath- ering 6pm @ The Gibson's
	S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm →					
25	26	27 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	28 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	29 M&M: 5:30-7pm	30	
	S.A.C. Tutoring 5:30-7:30pm →					