



# THE ENCOURAGER

## OCC PLANS FOR INSPIRING EASTER WEEKEND

by Martin Wright

Easter weekend is powerful, moving and inspirational at OCC. This coming Easter promises to draw us closer to Christ and to one another as we worship, fellowship and participate in a memorable communion service together. We encourage you to make it your priority to attend a service at OCC this Easter.

### Last Supper Communion Service Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

We hope you will join us for a moving participation in Holy communion and time of prayer and worship as we recall the events of Christ's last supper with his disciples before the cross. This experiential service is marked by its ambience, intimacy and power as it rekindles our spiritual fire by drawing us closer to Christ and His sacrificial love for God's people. The service concludes with a very poignant moment of remembrance of Christ's death on the cross.

### Sunrise Celebration Sunday, April 20th at 6:30 a.m

Early on the first day of the week Christ arose! Death holds no power over the risen Christ! Indeed, this is why we also gather together early in the morning on the first day of the week to celebrate Christ's resurrection and victory over death. The light of the world shines brilliantly and we celebrate it during this early morning celebration as we watch the sun rise together. Following our Sunrise Celebration we will enjoy a continental breakfast together in the OCC fellowship area downstairs.

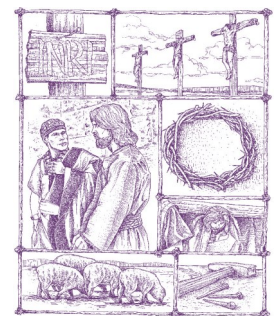
### Easter Services offered at 8:00 a.m, 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

In recent years attendance at our Easter services has grown to the point we are no longer able to accommodate all of our guests in just one service. We now offer three opportuni-

ties for members and guests to attend our Easter program. Our first service begins at 8:00 a.m. in the worship center. Guests attending this service should note that child care and children's programming are only being offered during our 10:00 a.m. service. Our second service will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the worship center as well. Those attending the second service are encouraged to arrive early as seating and parking fill up quickly. Weather permitting, we will have overflow parking on the lawn areas. Our final Easter service of the day will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the OCC cafe. Due to the addition of extra services on Easter Sunday we will not be able to accommodate our Sunday school classes on April 20. Sunday school will resume on April 27 at its normal time.



He  
Has  
Risen



# The Biotic Church

by Zech Riggs

Spring is upon us!! It is slowly creeping its way back into our lives and like me; many of you are more than happy to see this season and the warmer weather that accompanies. With spring though comes another important aspect for many people: gardening. Although not everyone chooses to complete this sometimes arduous task, many do. It is an absolutely amazing and beautiful experience and one that God absolutely loves and applies to His own people. Jesus, in many of His parables, uses agriculture for examples of human and church growth and it is no coincidence that God placed his most valuable creation, us, in the garden at the beginning. He would even walk around his garden probably admiring all the wonderful creations that were made by his hands. God is showing us in these examples how He wants us to look at the world. He wants us to see it as one big gardening plot and that He has provided everything that we'll ever need for spiritual and church growth; all we need to do is make the proper use of

it. In a recent book I have had the privilege of reading, Charles Schwarz presented an idea that the church is actually biotic or natural. What does this mean though? "Biotic means nothing less than a rediscovery of the laws of life. The goal is to let God's natural growth automatism flourish..." while not putting the major focus on the programs we choose ourselves, instead allow God to work through the programs that we choose. The programs that we choose are not what are inherently wrong but the fact that we sometimes put them before God. We must instead choose the programs which best allow God to sprout in the lives of those attending. God wants us to discover this biotic potential (the inherent capacity of an organism or species to reproduce and survive) of our church. In other words, God has given our church the capacity to grow and spread into the entire world, we just have to unlock it. When we think of gardening, we often equate the fruits and vegetables as something that we have ac-

complished and created, but in reality, all we did was nurture and help guide the growth. We cannot will or cause a seed to sprout and grow just as we cannot will a person to believe in Jesus Christ. What we can do is create a healthy environment for that seed to grow. We can water it and put it into a spot in which the Son can constantly shine in its life. We can help pick the weeds out that would kill it and make sure it has everything that it needs to grow but ultimately, it is God that makes it grow. Gardens are a beautiful, unique lesson that God is teaching us about how we are to apply the wisdom that we gain from the scriptures. We must understand that these plants that seem to grow "all by themselves" are actually a result of us unlocking the growth catalysts inherent in every seed and person. We are God's gardeners sowing the seeds and nurturing each other and the church. So let's start planting and getting our hands dirty!!!



## New Nursery Coordinator

from Kathleen Schwein

I am pleased to share with you that God has led Meg Mullins into the position of Nursery Coordinator. After only a few conversations, it was clear to both Meg and I that the Spirit was leading toward this decision. Meg has expressed openly that she feels a bit like Moses in her response but is willing to follow the Spirit's lead as she knows God can and will use each of us at any time and for any purpose to glorify His name. Meg is contagiously enthusiastic about her new mission and her desire to serve is authentic and fresh. I believe, through the Spirit's leading, she will bless our nursery ministry greatly and I look forward to watching it grow under her leadership. Meg has been a

member of OCC since 2012 and we are blessed for her to be a part of our family. She is anxious to meet all of our wonderful ladies so feel free to seek her out during service and introduce yourself if you are not already acquainted. Please join me in welcoming her and in giving her our wholehearted support! What an awesome God we serve!



## Attention Seniors

Join us for dinner and a movie!

Do you remember any "classic" movies from your past? On April 19th, the Yes Cinema, as part of its classic film series, is showing the film "Singing In The Rain" at 7:00 pm. Come and join us at the Sirloin Stockade Buffet at 5:00 for supper and a time of fellowship with each other and then we will all meet at the Yes Cinema to enjoy watching Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor in "Singing In The Rain". Admission to the movie is only \$5.00 a person. Please sign the sheet in the Life Center to let us know if you will attend. If there is enough interest, I will reserve the large room at the Sirloin Stockade. Contact Norman Love – 812-552-1807 for information.

# Bucket Kit Gardening Project

by Martin Wright

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” Matthew 25:35 (NIV)*

The world produces enough food to feed every person on the planet. World agriculture produces 17% more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, despite a 70% population increase. Bucket/drip irrigation kits help those at risk for hunger in under developed countries to grow their own vegetables even when there is insufficient rain or less than ideal soil. Chapin Living Waters' created the bucket kit with a goal of bringing hope to the poorest people in the world and to equip them with the opportunity to solve their own problems. It is hoped that a successful bucket garden will provide enough calories to sustain a family of four individuals and even provide an excess of produce which can be traded or sold.

## About OCC's Project

We are a church that wants to make a difference in our community and in our world today. We believe God can do amazing things through ordinary people who use their gifts and talents to honor and serve the Lord. We are participating in a bucket gardening project for three specific reasons: We want to raise awareness concerning the approximately 925 million people facing hunger (53% of children under 5). We want to explore and understand how "bucket kit" gardening/drip irrigation works so we might be better equipped to share and pass it on; and we hope to use "bucket kits" to bless people during the upcoming gardening season and are encouraging those participating to bless others in our community with free and fresh produce. Our goal is to help empower small-scale family farmers around the globe to increase their harvests and to improve the nutritional diversity of their crops. We also sense that "bucket kits" may well be a part of a sustainable solution to some of the challenges which currently contribute to global hunger.

For sources and more information visit:

[www.chapinlivingwaters.org](http://www.chapinlivingwaters.org) [www.echonet.org](http://www.echonet.org) [www.worldhunger.org](http://www.worldhunger.org) [www.hydrsource.com/w3clp008.htm](http://www.hydrsource.com/w3clp008.htm)



HONDURAS



NEPAL



THAILAND



GUYANA

## Is Global Hunger Really a Problem



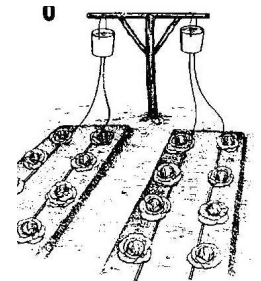
Chapin Living Waters

[rchapinw@imcnet.net](mailto:rchapinw@imcnet.net)  
[www.chapinlivingwaters.org](http://www.chapinlivingwaters.org)

364 N. Colorado Avenue  
Watertown, NY 13601 USA  
phone (USA): 315-788-0891

- Approximately **925 million** people across the world are hungry.
- About **5.6 million** deaths of children worldwide are related to under-nutrition. This accounts for **53 percent** of the total deaths for children under 5.
- **More than 140 million** or **25 percent** of all children in developing countries are underweight and at risk from the long-term effects of malnourishment.
- Worldwide, **161 million** preschool children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Sources: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org), [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org), [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), [www.un.org](http://www.un.org),



## Hilltop Women's Retreat Coming in April

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2Cor 12:9*

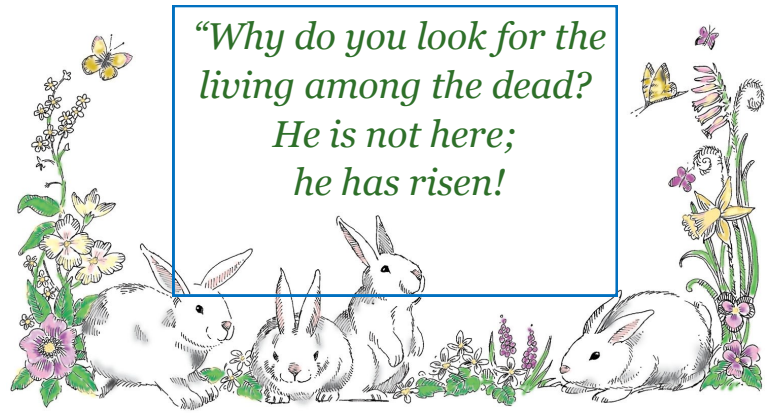
"Finding Your Worth in Christ" is the theme for the Hilltop Women's Retreat to be held April 25 & 26 at Hilltop Christian Camp in beautiful Brown County. The speaker this year is Amy Lanham from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in Bloomington, IN. Bible based workshops will help re-

fresh, inspire and encourage you in your walk with Christ. Topics will include: Raising Godly Children, the Why & How of Small Groups & many more. A prayer room and walk will also be available for quiet reflection. A Christian book Swap & Shop will be available so round-up your

used books to donate or trade. Chapel will be open after campfire to enjoy Christian fellowship. You will find registrations for this year's event at the OCC Life Center or you may contact the camp directly at 812-988-4991 or email [hilltop@hilltopchristiancamp.com](mailto:hilltop@hilltopchristiancamp.com).



7891 West 450 South  
Columbus, In 47201  
812-342-6907  
occsecretary@comcast.net



*“Why do you look for the  
living among the dead?  
He is not here;  
he has risen!”*

Martin Wright, Minister 812-374-7528  
Martin Peterson, Elder 812-371-7679  
John Hundley, Elder 812-552-5067  
Lucky Jenkins, Elder 812-374-2832  
Norman Love, Elder 812-552-1807  
Don Bradley, Elder 812-445-3611



**We Exist to**

- ...celebrate God's Presence through Worship. (Jn 4:23-24)
- ...communicate God's Word through Evangelism. (Rom 10:13)
- ...demonstrate God's Love through Ministry. (Jn 13:35)
- ...educate God's People through Discipleship. (Eph 4:11-13)
- ...unite God's People through Fellowship. (1 Jn 1:3)



**EVENTS IN**



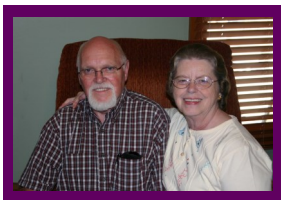
**anniversaries & birthdays**

**...on the calendar**

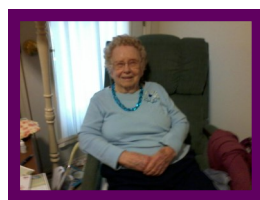
- ◇ 4.6 Breakfast Sunday 9:30-9:50am
- ◇ 4.12 OCC Work day 8am—12pm
- ◇ 4.19 Hilltop Work day
- ◇ 4.20 Easter Sunday — see article for schedule
- ◇ 4.25-26 Hilltop Women's Retreat
- ◇ 4.27 Foust Wedding Shower 2pm OCC

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Ron May                     | 14 Nikki Smith            |
| John Kropack                  | 16 Elizabeth Lockherd     |
| 2 Margaret Greene             | Gayla Shireman            |
| 3 Gwen Bond                   | Kaley Murray              |
| Cathy Clubb                   | Janet Murphy              |
| Kim Morgan                    | 17 Steve Pruitt           |
| 4 Richard & Linda Emily*      | Whitney Michael           |
| Sadie Hiatt                   | Lucky & Cheryl Jenkins*   |
| 5 Carly Wright                | 18 Travis Mouser          |
| Conetta Casey                 | Denny & Robin Dorsett*    |
| David Murray                  | 20 Brenda Stoner          |
| 6 Betty Newland               | 22 Judah Carlson          |
| Randy & Kim Olmstead*         | Preston Humbel            |
| Grace Peterson                | Haley Cook                |
| 7 Billy & Crystal Brooks*     | 24 Breanna Dorsett        |
| Jason McCord                  | Ethan Murphy              |
| 8 Kimberly Hutchinson         | Morris & Diane Bolin*     |
| 9 Paula Brown                 | 25 Tessa Hensley          |
| 10 BJ Schwein                 | 26 Chris Smallwood        |
| Duwayne Hornback              | 28 Charlene Folz          |
| 11 Bella Fredericksen         | Jessica Sherfick          |
| 12 Levi Bruner                | Josh Meek                 |
| Dennis Schwein                | 29 Luke Allman            |
| Preston & Gina Humbel*        | Melinda Foust             |
| Sylvina & Duwayne Hornback*   | Terry & Marilyn Mullins*  |
| 13 Kendall & Victoria Yeaton* | 30 Lee & Alice Ostrander* |
|                               | Chris Shewmake            |

**spotlight...**



Jim & Nadine Campbell  
March 29, 1964  
Happy 50th Anniversary



Betty Newland  
97 yrs April 6  
Happy Birthday