



# GETTING CONNECTED

Publication of...

*Mt. Brydges Baptist Church*

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## Cuttings

"Ahh, the wide almond groves  
in full white flower  
Stunning in the morning sun.  
Old naked Winter in his garb of  
grays and browns has run.  
Forsythia blooms come and go  
in the blink of a yellow Eye,  
Then, suddenly, mysteriously,  
Green erupts; and we sigh."

- Michael P. Garofalo,

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- Lam 4:25
- Anne Bradstreet

## A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the  
orchard white,  
Like nothing else by day, like  
ghosts by night;  
And make us happy in the  
happy bees,  
The swarm dilating round  
the perfect trees."

- Robert Frost

## Join us each Sunday for Worship...

**10:45am Worship and Praise**

*Thot:* "Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." - Doug Larson

## Diamonds are forever...

George was out shopping at the mall when he met his friend outside the jewelers. Kevin noticed that George had a small gift-wrapped box in his hand. "So what've you just picked up, George? Kevin asks. "Well, now that you've been asking," replies George, "it's me and the missus' anniversary tomorrow. And when I asked her this morning what she wanted for our special day she said, "Oh, I don't know, dear, just give me something with a lot of diamonds." "So what'd you get her?" Kevin asks. George replied, smiling, "I bought her a deck of cards." [submitted by Roger Janes]

## A Thought for St. Patrick's Day

Have you ever stopped to ponder  
At the wonder of His ways?  
Prayers unanswered, will so often  
Prove His love in later days.  
Yet we humans pout and worry,

Selfishly we ask our will ~  
Thinking surely God's ignoring  
Plans we want Him to fulfill.  
As you come into His presence,  
Though it seems your prayer's  
unheard;

Rest upon the Father's goodness,  
In His love, and in His Word.  
Claim His promises,  
Know He's able,  
Seek His heart in all you do,

Dream big dreams,  
Asking His wisdom ~  
You will find God's love is true!



*The Lord is good  
unto them that wait  
for Him, to the soul  
that seeketh Him."*

(Lamentations 3:25 KJV)



"If we had no winter, the  
spring would not be so  
pleasant."

- Anne Bradstreet

*Where Christ is cherished, family is loved and everyone is family!*

## Famous Last Words...

*Here's some expressions you're probably waiting to hear (not!)...*

Pull the pin and count to what?

I wonder where the mother bear is...

It's okay; I've seen this done on TV!

I'll hold it and you light the fuse.

Let it down slowly, it's not that heavy!

I've done this before.

Nice doggie.

It's strong enough for both of us.

Well, we've made it this far!

I don't think we're in Kansas anymore.



## Something To Think About...

**What does it mean that a Christian is a new creation?** The new creation is described in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!”* We've all been marked, not only by our genetic background but through the environment in which we've been raised. Each of us can speak to those positive experiences where people in our lives have affirmed us while there have been those who chose to belittle us, to cause us to feel uncertain about ourselves and others.

**Good News!** God has said that not only will we bear resemblance to those who gave us birth, but we shall be made in His image ~ *“So God created man in His image”* (Genesis 1:27). You're not only created in your parent's image, you are created in God's, and you have His Word on it! Paul tells us that all who receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, trusting in Him, have died with Christ and no longer live for themselves. Our “death” is to the old sin nature nailed to the cross *with Christ*; buried with Him, and just as He was raised up by the Father, we're raised up to *“walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:4) as a “new creation.”

We all have a past, but we also have God in us if we've chosen to receive Christ. Even while we remain in this body, we're changed. It is not God

## If you only knew North America from the movies...

- being chased in town, you could take cover in a passing St. Patrick's Day parade - at any time of the year.
- All grocery shopping bags would contain a stick of French bread.
- It's easy for you to land a plane providing there is someone in the control tower to talk you down.
- A single match will be sufficient to light up a room the size of RFK Stadium.
- Medieval peasants had perfect teeth.

pulling strings taking away what He doesn't like, boxing us into a corner. No, it's based on a relationship with the Father. Because God loves us, He forms a new creation working outwards from the heart. To understand this new creation, we must grasp it's **a creation**, something created by God. John 1:13 tells us that this new birth was brought about *by the will of God*. We didn't inherit a new nature, we didn't decide to re-create ourselves anew, nor did God simply clean up our old nature; He created something entirely fresh and unique. Only the Creator could accomplish such a feat!

*“Old things have passed away”* refers to all that's part of our old nature—natural pride, love of sin, reliance on works, our former habits and passions. What we loved has passed away, especially the supreme love of self ~ self-righteousness, self-promotion, self-justification. Our new creature looks upward to Christ instead of inwardly toward self. The old things have died, nailed to His cross. That's the cost of our new creation. Christ paid that debt that we might have new life.

Old, dead things are replaced with new things, fullness of life; the glory of God. If we're to be raised in resurrection with Christ, the newborn soul must find delight in the things of God & abhor the things of the world and the flesh. Our purposes, feelings, desires, & understandings have become fresh, become different. We now see the world differently. Because of this, we freely allow Him to lead us, opening ourselves to the death of what we've been, willingly giving up control of our lives so that all that we are – mind, body and soul - are in the hands of God.

Growing and living in today's secular society while walking with Christ will mean you often are living in opposition to the world around you.

That's not necessarily a bad thing but will seem hard at times. Let God be your guide. As you experience the heavens and earth filled with new wonders all things will seem to speak forth the praise of God. Experience a new kind of love toward family and friends, a new compassion never before felt for enemies, and a new love for all mankind. The things we once loved, we now detest. The sin we once held onto, we now desire to put away forever. We *“put off the old man with his deeds”* and put on the *“new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”* (Ephesians 4:24). And live life!

## Mark your Calendar...

Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Communion

Wed March 5<sup>th</sup> 7-8pm **Gather for an Evening of Prayer**

Tues Mar 11 & 25 **Kid's Club** 6:30pm

Wed Mar 12, 19 & 26 - Study on **Book of Revelation** with video & discussion

**JOHN'S REVELATION UNVEILED**



**Weekly Messages...**

*X-Ray Your Heart!*