

# FOURTH PRESS

April 2012

Volume 36, Issue No. 3

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## Learning to Value the Eternal

*Rob Norris, Senior Pastor*

It is easy to be discouraged when we look at our lives and wonder if there is any change in us, even though we have become Christians—especially knowing that we continue to sin. The truth is that the Christian is a living witness to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, though we have not seen Him with our eyes, as did the disciples. Still, the testimony of the indwelling Holy Spirit brings us that sure conviction. The Spirit also ministers the real hope of eternal life that accompanies such a conviction, renewing us for resurrection living. This renewal is not accomplished in one moment, as is our conversion and the forgiveness of sins. Rather like the recovery from a protracted illness when our strength returns gradually, so also our growth in Christ and in the power of the resurrection is a progressive reality.

It is of this that the apostle Paul spoke when he wrote, “Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16) This renewal means that the false and the temporary lose hold on us, and progressively the Spirit converts the direction of our love. Increasingly, we stop valuing the temporal over the eternal, and we stop trusting the principles of the visible world and start learning to trust the principles of the invisible world. We find that the hopes that satisfy and bring lasting joy are those that look to things eternal and come from the deep wells of the Spirit.

Our progress depends upon the ministry of the Spirit as He uses God’s Word of Scripture to comfort, instruct and challenge us. So, by Word and Spirit, our daily progress continues and we make spiritual progress. In this truth we can overcome discouragement and deepen lives as we are drawn into a deeper spiritual love of the Lord who has saved us and given to us an abiding and eternal hope.

## Metro Outreach Week: April 23—April 29

*Rob Yancey, Director of Missions and Outreach*

For decades Fourth has taken one week a year to focus on its missions initiatives around the world. There have been speakers from Southern Sudan and Fourth Night “tours” to such countries as Japan, Hungary, and Argentina. The focus of these weeks has been primarily on international missions.

This year we will add an additional week of outreach focus, Metro Outreach Week, turning our attention to our own backyard. We will highlight the opportunities to advance the Gospel in the lives of our neighbors, co-workers, and friends, and extend God’s mercy through serving the needs of the marginalized in the inner-city.

Please join me in praying that God would use this initial Metro Outreach Week to cultivate in us a passion for sharing the good news of Christ and demonstrating His love to those around us. And join us for the following events:

**Wednesday April 25: Fourth Night Lesson on Prayer and Evangelism** by Randy Newman

**Friday, April 27: Men’s Dinner** with speaker Ambassador Skip Gnehm, a great opportunity for men to bring neighbors, co-workers, and friends to hear about Christ and how He has worked in one member’s life.

**Saturday, April 28: Urban Ministries Exposure and Prayer.** Come visit our urban ministry partners along with Fourth members who are working with them. Hear firsthand how God is using them to extend His mercy and make His Gospel known.

**Sunday, April 29 Morning:** Rev. Tim Russell will preach at the morning services; Randy Newman will speak at both Upper Room Sunday school classes.

**Sunday, April 29 Evening:** Urban Ministries will be the focus of the evening service, with testimonies and music from our partner ministries.

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## From the Pastor's Study March reviewed book

*"Setting Our Sights on Heaven" by Paul Wolfe*

Recently I was given a copy of Paul Wolfe's book, "Setting Our Sights on Heaven," a surprisingly different book. He uses both exposition and argumentation to strengthen his assertion that Christians should be more intentional about their thinking of heaven. He outlines in a compelling way the biblical thinking about heaven and also stimulates his readers to do just that!

Too rarely do those of us who have the hope of heaven spend any great amount

of time contemplating what has been won for us by Christ, at such cost. So he proclaims the Gospel to Christians for their encouragement. Yet this book is also a 'wake up' call to non-Christians, making them aware of the future destiny open to all who will believe.

Wolfe asserts that being heavenly-minded is part of our privilege as believers. Adding that we are enjoined to be such, he outlines the nature of the blessing that exists as we contemplate our future with the Lord and His people.

Far from being a large theological tome, this book is easily readable, yet profound, being at the same time both instructive and inspirational. This is a book that is easy to commend to every Christian of whatever age and will guarantee to bring blessing.

*Setting Our Sights on Heaven, by Paul Wolfe, is available for checkout in Fourth's Media Center. We have 20 other books on the topic of heaven as well.*

*Paul Wolfe's earlier book, My God is True! Lessons Learned Along Cancer's Dark Road, is also in the Media Center.*

## ESOL

**HOW CAN YOU** in one delightful afternoon...

- Meet and minister to international students studying English at Fourth?
- Tour a farm and learn about organic farming?
- Remember and honor our military personnel on Memorial Day weekend?
- Save on gas by staying relatively close to home?

*Come to the 15th Annual*

### ESOL INTERNATIONAL PICNIC

**Saturday, May 24, 2012**

at Rocklands Farm in Poolesville

*Fun for the whole family*

*International food*

*Fresh produce and eggs for sale*



**Save the Date**  
**Wednesday, May 16**  
 For the **Women of Fourth Luncheon**  
 in the Upper Room  
 Jani Ortlund will speak on  
 "Creating a Perfect Life in This Imperfect World."

# FOURTH PRESS

**MANAGING EDITOR**, Jeri Weaver  
**LAYOUT & DESIGN**, Natasha Gilliam  
**WEB MASTER**, Dale Meadowcroft  
**PROOFREADERS**, Bob Klassen and Esther Steele

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EIGHTH IN A SERIES

## Checking Out the Authors Among Us

*Gary Ross, Special Features Writer*

God had two questions for Adam and Eve after they had sinned in the Garden: "Where are you?" and "What have you done?"

According to Frederick Buechner, "psychologists, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists have been asking the same questions ever since." Written between 1950 and 1995, Buechner's 16 novels and other non-fiction works are the subject of Victoria S. Allen's doctoral dissertation, *Listening to Life, Psychology and Spirituality in the Writings of Frederick Buechner*.

Each chapter in Allen's book covers one or more of Buechner's works, each revealing principles of psychological and spiritual truth and telling more about the author along the way. Indeed he takes his own advice, "listening to his life." Early on, one of Buechner's characters has to deal with his father's suicide—Just as Buechner did in real life.

Allen chooses to reveal Buechner as exhibited in the last three chapters of her book reviewing three of his novels that especially show his skill as a storyteller who has theological insight. "Whether focusing on a southern preacher, a medieval saint or an Old Testament patriarch, he uses enlightened self-analysis, psychologically revealing dreams and literal and metaphysical exposures of past memories and share his characters' lives to demonstrate the dynamics of Christian faith..." The final three stories exalt experience as a way to find psychological and spiritual truth, "skillfully remembering one's painful hurt trail to discover one's love story—which Buechner learned through psychotherapy." Buechner, "having experienced in therapy what it means to be a wounded healer is what makes his writing so effective." These traits make him a gifted author and make his writings resonate with readers.

Allen sees Buechner as a writer with a style similar to that of C.S. Lewis. To gain your own appreciation of his work, read *Listening to Life*.

*Dr. Victoria Allen and her husband Dr. David Allen attended Fourth until they moved back to the Bahamas in 2004. Their books are among the nearly 100 offered in the Media Center's Authors Among Us shelves.*



## Marriage Conference for Marrieds and Singles Coming in June

On Friday, June 15, 7 – 9:15 pm, and Saturday, June 16, 9 – 12:15pm, Fourth will host Paul Tripp's marriage conference, "What Did You Expect?: Redeeming the Realities of Marriage."

This seminar is about living in marriage God's way. Tripp writes about his own marriage, "When we look back, we are amazed at all that has happened, all that God has done.... We love Jesus and his transforming grace. We love His Word and the stunning wisdom that it contains. We know our story isn't a story of marital success. No, our story is the story of two people who have been rescued by grace and wisdom again and again."

You'll find the material based on God's Word with helpful definitions and practical application. It goes deeper than a discussion of budgeting, communication skills, and conflict resolution, as important as those topics are. But the uniqueness of this conference is that it gets at the heart of the marriage challenge. That is, we as sinners are our greatest marriage problem. We lack love for God, therefore we don't love one another. But God has given us His grace in His Son. We are flawed people, married to flawed people, living in a fallen world, but with a faithful God. That is the marriage hope in which we rest and work.

Registration and payment will be online at Fourth's website. There will also be a registration table in Halverson Hall in May and June. Cost is \$10 per person. Child care will be provided free of charge for infants through kindergarten.

Seating is limited. Register early. For more information call the Congregational Care office at x216.

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*Counselor, writer and lecturer, Paul Tripp is author of books and articles that cover a variety of topics relating to interpersonal communications. Nine of his books and two of his DVDs are available for checkout from Fourth's Media Center.*

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## Fourth Family Milestones

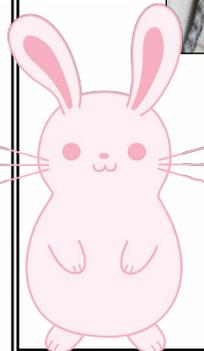
Information reported to these sources will automatically be included in this monthly listing unless you request otherwise.  
**Births and Adoptions:** Amanda Westley, x219, [awestley@4thpres.org](mailto:awestley@4thpres.org); **Marriages:** Jean Erskine, x205; [jerskine@4thpres.org](mailto:jerskine@4thpres.org);  
**Anniversaries:** Jeri Weaver, x206; [jweaver@4thpres.org](mailto:jweaver@4thpres.org); **Deaths:** Janet Tate, x217; [jtate@4thpres.org](mailto:jtate@4thpres.org)  
 We welcome your pictures! Email photos to accompany your announcements to [jweaver@4thpres.org](mailto:jweaver@4thpres.org).  
**Please do not send photos through the mail.**



### ~Birth~



**Ella Louise Huang** | *February 15, 2012*  
 Parents: Jerry and Melissa (Carder) Huang




## ~Deaths~

**Dr. Robert E. Collins** | *March 12, 2012*  
 Husband of the late Barbara Collins  
 Father of seven  
 Grandfather of eight

**Marilyn Simms** | *February 22, 2012*  
 Wife of Ray Simms  
 Mother of Kathy (John) Boyd, Laura (John) Smith,  
 and David (Ann) Simms  
 Grandmother of five

**Shirley Barr** | *February 28, 2012*  
 Wife of Dr. J. Frederick (Fred) Barr  
 Mother of Amy and the late Melissa Barr



**Joanne Hand** | *February 23, 2012*  
 Wife of Roger Hand  
 Mother of Deborah (Michael) Macdonald  
 Grandmother of three

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## Lord, Teach Us to Pray Fourth Night Series

Five Wednesday Evenings, April 11– May 9

With a combination of Fourth pastors and outside speakers, we look at the nature and practice of prayer to build up Christian discipleship and encourage congregational prayer life. Our time together will include both lecture and focused prayer time in the Upper Room.



<b>April 11</b>	"The Prayer Life of Jesus"	Dr. Robert Norris
<b>April 18</b>	"Praying Scripture"	Rev. Blair Smith
<b>April 25</b>	"Prayer and Outreach"	Rev. Randy Newman
<b>May 2</b>	"Personal and Intercessory Prayer"	Dr. Glen Knecht
<b>May 9</b>	"The Challenges and Opportunities of Prayer"	Dr. Todd Smedley

## HOLY WEEK AT FOURTH

*"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the Highest!"*

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 1**  
**PALM SUNDAY MORNING**  
 8, 9:30 & 11am Services  
**"God on a Donkey"** | *Luke 19:28-44*  
 Dr. Robert Norris

**PALM SUNDAY EVENING**  
 6pm Communion Service  
**"King of the World"** | *John 12:12-19*  
 Rev. Blair Smith

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 5**  
 7:30pm Communion Service  
**"Gethsemane"** | *Luke 22: 39-46*  
 Dr. Robert Norris

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**APRIL 6**  
 7:30pm Tenebrae Service of Darkness  
**"What the Father Thought of His Son's Cross"**  
*Romans 8:31-39*  
 Dr. Todd Smedley

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 8**  
**SUNRISE COMMUNION SERVICE**  
 6am  
**"Beyond Bewilderment"** | *Mark 16:6-7*  
 Dr. Robert Norris

**EASTER MORNING**  
 8, 9:30, & 11am Services  
**"The Resurrection—God's Promise"** | *1 Corinthians 15*  
 Dr. Robert Norris

**CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION**  
 During the 9:30 Sunday school hour, children in grades K-5 will explore Easter prophecy in a joyful assembly filled with drama, music, and activities.

**EASTER EVENING**  
 6pm Communion Service  
**"Resurrection Living"** | *Romans 6:1-14*  
 Dr. Todd Smedley

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## Two Fourth School Students Honored

*John Murray, Headmaster*

The Carson Scholars Fund was founded in 1994 by world-renowned Johns Hopkins Pediatric Neurosurgeon Ben S. Carson. Seeking to improve education in America, Dr. Carson and his wife Candy began awarding \$1,000 college scholarships to students in grades 4-11 "who excel academically and are dedicated to serving their communities." The Carson Scholars Fund awards more than 500 scholarships annually, with scholars representing 45 states and the District of Columbia.



This year, eighth grader Charlotte Holdrich, (pictured above, at left) was selected as a 2012 Carson Scholar. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award to be invested toward

her college education. According to the Carson Scholars Fund, "This year's pool of applications was larger and more competitive than in previous years." Charlotte "stood out as an exemplary student and role model." She will attend the 16th Annual Awards Banquet in Baltimore on April 29 to receive her award from Dr. Carson.

Congratulations to Charlotte on such a remarkable achievement!

Another eighth grade student, Susanna Yau, also garnered an impressive academic accolade for our school, having attained one of the top 100 geography test scores in the state of Maryland. This qualified her to advance to the State Championship round of the National Geography Bee. She will compete in April in Baltimore; the winner will represent the state of Maryland in the National Bee this May in Washington, DC.

Please keep Susanna in your prayers!



[Click here to open a copy suitable for printing](#)



*Does your **faith** need a growth spurt this spring?  
 Would you like a boost of **hope** to encourage your heart?  
 Are you in need of a big dose of friendship and **love**?*

Please join us for the spring session of Body & Soul Fitness, called Faith, Hope & Love. We meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, 9:30-10:45, for a cardio/strength training/flexibility workout to fun contemporary Christian music. Our goal is that you will be strengthened physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Classes start March 26. You can sign up to come one, two, or three days a week. For more information, please contact Heather Johnson at 301-871-3420 or [jhwhdjohnson@verizon.net](mailto:jhwhdjohnson@verizon.net).

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CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES UPDATE

## Spring Forward

*Amanda Westly, Assistant Director of Children’s Ministries*

We thank the Lord for the success of our March In-service Brunch for Teachers and Assistants! Dr. Norris delivered a powerful charge to the teachers, “stirring up the gift... within” to serve our covenant children and partner in the ministry of the Gospel.

Our amazing and dedicated teachers bring an incredibly diverse range of gifts from home and professional life. It was wonderful to share in fellowship and the meal lovingly prepared by Esther Steele and talk about what is working in the classroom and about our hopes for improving and developing the Sunday school experience in each class.

We were glad to be able to present to our fellow servants the newly revised and updated Children’s Ministry Volunteer Handbook, which had been in the works for months. Anyone working with children at Fourth should stop by the Children’s Ministry Office and get a copy if you don’t yet have one.

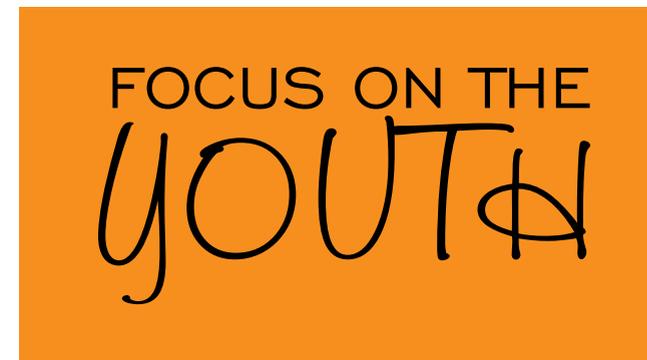
### A New Twos Class at 9:30

Blessed by a wonderful class of two year olds, we are forming an additional Young Twos Class, (Go Orange!) at 9:30 in room 212B. We will begin with five children and end in the spring with eight or nine. Our teacher, Gail Veichnicki, will take the reins in this delightful class of our littlest Sunday schoolers. Please pray for the success of this new class and for the Fours who’ve had to tighten their belts a bit to share our precious space!

### VBS Has Liftoff! Mark Your Calendars for July 9-13

Our fourth annual church and community wide Vacation Bible School has now opened for registration for children (go to our website to register and pay online) and for the volunteers who would like to reserve a place to serve in this dynamic and popular program. Fourth has drawn many families back to church through this outreach and we plan even more ways to follow up with families. Please pray for this July 9-13 event. We are thrilled to partner this year with the Youth and Summer Staff and for the amazing gifts of love and service they have shown.

To find your post in this wonderful place of service, please contact Carol Van Duzer or Amanda Westly, or simply go to the [website](#) and sign up!



*Please join us in praying for our youth.*

**April 1-7:** Pray for our senior class as they are away on the Senior Florida Trip. Pray for encouraging conversations with staff and valuable time preparing for their upcoming transition out of high school. Pray for all of our students, as many are on spring break this week. Pray their time off school would be refreshing and that they would have encouraging times with family. Our volunteer staff and Sunday school teachers get a break from ministry this week; pray they would feel rejuvenated and encouraged in their faith during Holy Week.

**April 8-14:** Pray for Friday Night Club and Overtime. Pray students invite non-Christian friends to these outreach events and that their friends would be welcomed by the students. Pray all the students’ hearts would be softened to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ as presented by staff.

**April 15-21:** Pray for middle school and high school groups and their fellowship events this week. Pray for unity within the groups, within the ministry, and within the church. Pray for middle and high school Bible studies and small groups. Pray for our Bible study leaders—for their pursuit of holiness and deeper fellowship with Christ. Pray for their preparations for Bible study, that they would be deepening relationships with students around the Word.

**April 22-30:** Pray for the full-time staff as they continue to lead the group during this time of transition. Pray for each staff member by name. Pray for wisdom and discernment in decision-making and for encouragement in their faith as they seek to come alongside parents in pointing our youth to Christ.

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# Men Prepared for Service

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Sponsored by the Men of Fourth

Every Christian man has received a gift from God which he is responsible to use for the glory of God and the good of the Church. There are compelling reasons to really want to use the gifts God has given to us. The Bible clearly makes this point, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace... Whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies, in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:10,11).

Each Christian has received a gift, some special work of God's grace in your life; you are responsible to employ it for the benefit of others and to the glory of God. We should really want to use God's gifts, rather than doing nothing with them. There are several reasons in 2 Corinthians 4:1. Christians who use their gifts are ministers of a new covenant, meaning that ministry is not merely the keeping of regulations, but rather the experience of spiritual power. (2 Cor. 3:4-6).

The old covenant was the agreement God made with His people at Mount Sinai that if they would trust Him, obey Him, avail themselves humbly of His forgiveness when they sinned, He would give them life and prosperity. The new covenant is the agreement God has made with His people that if they trust Jesus and obey Him and avail themselves of the forgiveness He purchased, He would give them eternal life. The terms of the covenants are not essentially different. What is different is that the spiritual

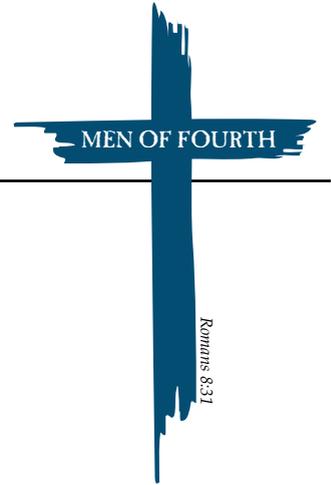
power to overcome the hardness of men's hearts was given in the new covenant. After Christ atoned for sins once for all, God poured out His Spirit in large measure for the empowering of obedience.

**2. Jesus said servanthood is the path of greatness.** When Paul uses his gift in ministry to the Church, he says he becomes their servant for Jesus' sake. (2.Cor. 4:5). Paul gets the joyful fulfillment of knowing he is becoming a great man of faith; Jesus gets the service.

**3. Your ordinariness is no reason not to use your gift.** Too many men say, "I'm so ordinary, so average and undistinguished, I can't do anything significant." Here God's purpose is to make sure we see that the surpassing power belongs to Him and not to us. He does this by putting the treasure of His gifts and His Gospel in clay pots like you and me.

**4. Using your gift makes people thankful to God.** The true reward of a Christian who uses his gift to help others is not that they thank him, but that they thank God.

Rob Norris - Men of Fourth Conference, 2008



*Dear Fourth Family,*

*My daughter, Deborah Macdonald, her family, and I want to express our sincere gratitude to the Fourth family for the many kindnesses showered on all of us during Joanne's long battle with cancer. Your prayers, cards, notes of encouragement, flowers, and many wonderful meals were true expressions of Christian love. Joanne was so thankful and blessed by the chance, through the delivery of meals, to meet, fellowship, and pray with so many new friends. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father that, through His Son's death on the cross and His resurrection, she is now at rest with Him in her eternal home. - Roger Hand*

