

MARCH 2012

# secondedition



# GOD

what do you want?



Second  
CHURCH of CHRIST

3350 East Voorhees St. | Danville, IL 61834  
217-442-7306 | [www.secondchurchofchrist.org](http://www.secondchurchofchrist.org)

# GOD

## what do you want?

**Drew Mentzer**



I want to thank all of you who took part in our study, *Not a Fan*. Thank you for being faithful on Sunday morning and for listening and thinking about your relationship with Jesus Christ. I think many of us were challenged to stop being lukewarm and start being serious about what it means to follow Jesus.

I also know this study has raised some questions. I think one of the signs that we are growing in our faith and are really following Jesus is that we begin to ask some of the hard questions. Should I downsize, change this habit, start that program, sell everything and go overseas as a missionary? Some of you were really challenged to think about some tough issues. You are the ones who want to make a difference in this world by following Jesus. So what should we do? How do we follow up on *Not a Fan*? And if I am really a follower of Jesus Christ, what is that going to look like and what will it mean?

To help all of us think about our relationship with Jesus and what that means, we are starting a new series on Sunday mornings called *God, What do You Want?* I want us to wrestle with some of those hard questions and look into the Word of God to seek His wisdom and direction. I also hope you will be praying for me as I prepare this series of messages and, also, that you will be praying for God to speak to you as you study and read along with me in God's Word.

Let me set the stage for seeking what God wants by reminding you that God has spoken in His Word, the Bible. There we have His revealed will, and it is critical that we read and apply what God has said. Be careful not to use bad study habits to seek God's will. The old turn and point method is not good. That is the method where you ask God a question and then flip open the Bible, point to a verse, and believe that is your answer. That is supersti-

tion, not Scripture. Also be careful to weigh thoughts and ideas that you have against what God has said in His Word. God will never contradict Himself. We must understand that His will for our lives will never violate His revealed will in the Bible.

I would also suggest that you listen to the "holy promptings" in your life - those thoughts you might have about what God is calling you to do. Have you ever had a thought that just came out of nowhere about someone you know? Maybe that was the Holy Spirit prompting you to pray for that person because of some emergency or problem. Have you ever been talking to someone and this thought came out of nowhere that you should say something to them about their relationship to Jesus Christ or their involvement in the church? Maybe that was the Holy Spirit prompting you to share your faith.

I know one of the things God wants is for us to help bring Kingdom life to this world; to bring up there down here. I know He wants His Kingdom to expand, and we are His Kingdom people, so it is the responsibility of all of us to help others come to a place of faith. With Easter coming up, now is a good time to fulfill one of the purposes of our lives, and that is to bring others to Jesus Christ. So please be praying, talking, inviting, and encouraging. Take a bold step and do what you know God wants you to do - *to share your faith with someone*.

I am looking forward to the weeks ahead as we prepare for Easter and as we wrestle with some tough issues on Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing you here every time we meet, and I look forward to meeting the new people you are going to bring to Easter at the Arena.





## Now What?

Dale DeNeal

**T**he *not a fan* series challenged us to think deeply about our relationship with Jesus by asking us if we were merely fans of Jesus or followers of Jesus. Next, the *not a fan series* confronted us with the reality of what it means to be a follower of Jesus by pointing us to Jesus' words in Luke 9:23: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Based on many conversations with people, it is clear that the *not a fan* impact has been profound.

One person told me that she was merely a fan of Jesus, and now she wants to learn to be a follower. I think most of us are inspired by her honest appraisal, because, if we are honest with ourselves, there is a bit of fan in all of us. I believe there are areas in every person's life that are not fully surrendered to Jesus' will because we naturally want to maintain control rather than surrender it.

This lady also expressed an important truth when she said, "I want to learn to be a follower." The truth is that becoming a follower of Jesus is something we must learn to do. I believe that being a follower of Jesus is not an event as much as it is a process. This is why Jesus said if we want to be His follower, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross *daily*. If becoming a follower of Jesus were merely an event, then why do we need to do the denying of self and the cross-

bearing every day? The reason is that deciding not to be a fan of Jesus and committing ourselves as followers is an activity that requires our daily attention. So, how do we do this - what does this daily regiment look like? How do we learn to follow Jesus? First we must be students of God's Word. Only when we know the Bible will we know what it is that God expects of us. The Apostle Paul commends us to "*let the words of Christ dwell in us richly*" (Colossians 3:16). If we want to be followers of Jesus, we must know what Jesus says. If the *not a fan* series has challenged you to move out of fandom and into followership, I suggest you spend the bulk of your Bible reading time in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. As you read these Gospel passages, pay close attention to the words of Jesus. Take note of what he says about the meaning of being a disciple. Personalize and pray about the scriptures you are reading. The time you spend focusing on the words of Jesus should be transforming. Therefore,

Continued on page 6

### PREACHING SCHEDULE MARCH-APRIL 8 2012

#### Series: *God, What do You Want?*

**March 4** - Is Heaven Our Purpose or Destination?

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 and 18-21

**March 11** - What is God's Will For My Life?

Romans 12:1-2

**March 18** - How Then Shall I Live?

1 Peter 1:13-16

**March 25** - Does My Life Really Matter?

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**April 1** - Can I Make Any Difference?

John 14:12-14

**April 8** - (Easter at the Arena)

Risen: Into Our Darkness God Brings Light



**O**ver the past several months, the Second Church of Christ leadership team has been thinking and talking about the future of the church. These discussions have been visionary and exciting. However, to help us effectively prepare for the future, we have partnered with an organization called Aspen Group. They are currently taking us through a visioning process that will begin with a congregation-wide survey called the *Transforming Church Index* or TCI. The TCI is a tool that will help gather input from our members on a variety of topics including: communications, outreach, leadership, member satisfaction, financials and others.

To make the TCI effective, we need a large number of our people to participate in the survey. The TCI survey will begin Sunday, March 11, and will run through March 25. The survey takes about 15 minutes and is available online. The web address and password will be available in the Sunday bulletin, and a link to the TCI survey will also be available on the church website beginning March 11. A limited number of paper surveys will be available for those who prefer this method. Your help with this important survey is greatly appreciated.

## CHILDRENS MINISTRY

Kenna Osborne



**E**ach of our young ladies (Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> grade) is encouraged to dress up, bring their favorite doll, and join us on Saturday, March 17, from 9:30 – 11:30 am, for our second annual My Doll and Me Tea Party.

Our young ladies will experience a tea party with their favorite doll and friends from church with lots of little surprises along the way. If your young lady is planning to attend this morning full of fun and pretty things, they **MUST** RSVP to Kenna on or before Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. To RSVP, please see Kenna, e-mail her ([kenna@secondchurchofchrist.org](mailto:kenna@secondchurchofchrist.org)), or call her at the church (442-7306).

**NEEDED:** Adult women to host a table of young ladies and their dolls, as well as Jr. High, High School, or Adult women to help with the surprise activities. If you can help with any of the above areas, please contact Kenna ASAP.

## JR HIGH MINISTRY

Terry Goodwin

### THE BRIDGE Sunday mornings at 10:15

During the month of March, we will be going through a series called “GOD, what do you want?” Join us each Sunday as we laugh and learn together.

### COMPASSION CHILD

Our Compassion Child is Keyling Stefany Rodriguez Morales! She is an 8-year-old girl from Nicaragua. Part of our offering on Sunday mornings goes to support her so that her food and schooling needs are taken care of on a monthly basis. \$1 per person can go a long way if we all work together!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday mornings at 9:00

Every week we keep our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students together to study Grapple. This group study is designed to help students wrestle with the teachings of the Bible. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students meet together for a time of deeper study and wrestling with where they stand in their relationship with Jesus.

### DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS MISSING FROM OUR NURSERY? YOU!

There are immediate openings during our 4<sup>th</sup> service worship hour for nursery caregivers. Why not take a moment to call Kenna (442-7306) and volunteer to give only one hour a month to serve Him and take care of some pretty amazing babies?

For the last several weeks, we have experienced an issue that needs our immediate attention... babies in our nursery without scheduled volunteers. This issue leaves volunteers (and Kenna and her family) stepping in to work an extra service hour forcing them to miss out on their own worship time. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to share your love for Him with our precious nursery babies. Thank you!

### EASTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Mark your calendars now for Easter at the Arena 2012! Invite your family and friends to attend the Easter service with you, and be ready to discover the amazing truth that He has indeed RISEN!

Do you realize that it takes approximately 75 volunteers to make our Children’s Ministry portion of Easter at the Arena a success? Volunteers are needed to work in Registration, in the Nursery, and as Preschool assistants.

We have been blessed in the past to have a terrific and extremely safe environment for our kids to learn the amazing story of Jesus’ love and triumph over death, and in order for Easter 2012 to be successful, **WE NEED YOU!**

Please contact Kenna at the church, 442-7306, to volunteer.

## CIY Superstart

Superstart is March 2 and 3 at Eastview Christian Church in Bloomington, IL. This trip is for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. We will be leaving the church at 3:00 pm on Friday, and we will be returning home on Saturday at 6:00 pm. Please remember to send money for 3 meals while we are gone.

## CIY BELIEVE

Believe is April 20 and 21 at Anderson University in Anderson, IN. This trip is for all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The cost for this event is \$65. We need your registrations for this event now. This event always fills up, and we need your registration form and money to reserve you a spot. Sign up today!! Registration forms are available on the church website. We will leave from the church on Friday at 2:30 pm. This will mean students may need to get out of school early on this day. We will return on Saturday around 6:30 pm.



## SUMMER CAMP

This summer there will be several opportunities for you to go to camp at Hanging Rock, but Molly and I would love if you would join us for a special week that we will be attending. We will be attending Middle School Camp for students who will be going into 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. We hope you will be able to attend this week on June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. If you can't attend that week, then check out one of the other awesome camps to enjoy this summer.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**Kiley Garrison**

### High School Nerf Wars

Saturday, March 3, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Take the game of Capture the Flag, throw in some Nerf Guns and add tons of Finger Blasters and you've got an awesome night of Nerf Wars! The cost is \$3 per person plus your favorite 2-liter of pop. Invite a friend! Enter through door #3 on the night of the event.

### High School Mission Trip June 17 - 22

Who says you have to go someplace else for a mission trip? This year we will be serving others right here in our own community. It's all that you expect from a mission trip without the travel time! If you've never been on a mission trip, this is a great way to try it out.

This trip is open to all students in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, March 18, at 11:30 in the gym for those interested.

### St. James Food Pantry

ROOTS will not be meeting on Wednesday, March 21, so that we can help distribute food at St. James. The church van will leave 2CC at 6:00 sharp and return at 7:45.

### Danville Gardens Fundraiser

Our CIY fundraiser with Danville Gardens will be on Tuesday, May 15. So mark your calendars and plan to come out and see us!

### Time's Running Out to Register for CIY MOVE 2012!

This year we are heading to the Windermere Conference Center in Roach, Missouri. Imagine all the fun of CIY plus the great outdoors! So mark your calendars for July 22 – 27.

The cost is \$275 per person if your deposit is turned in by Sunday, March 11. After that, the cost increases to \$300. We are also doing a drawing for all students registered by March 11, and the student who has their name drawn will receive \$50 off their registration cost! (The drawing will be done on Sunday, March 18, in The Journey.)

More information is available at the student ministry page on the church our website or at the Student Ministry Board across from the pop machines at church.

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**HEAVEN** THE  
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**EARTH** MOVE  
**COLLIDE** 2012

## not a fan. Now What? continued from page 3

write down your thoughts and insights in a notebook or journal.

Next, you need to do something about what you are learning from the words of Christ. James says that if we are just hearers of God's word and not doers, we have deceived ourselves (James 1:22). This is perhaps the greatest distinction between fans and followers. Fans of Jesus often possess good information about Jesus, but that information does not translate into action. Here's the bottom line: fans are hearers of God's Word while followers are doers of God's Word.

One thing Jesus told his followers to do was serve other people. In Matthew 20:26-28, Jesus said, *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Research shows that serving people is catalytic in spiritual growth.

Unfortunately, serving people does not come naturally for most of us. If we are honest with ourselves, we are drawn toward the things that make us feel comfortable, and serving others usually makes us feel uncomfortable. So our tendency is to serve ourselves and not others. Jesus knew this, and that is why He said we are to die to ourselves every day. If we are to follow Jesus in the area of serving others, we have to get ourselves and our selfish tendencies out of the way.

One way we can die to self and serve others is to put ourselves in a place of service. This could mean joining a ministry such as the group that serves the residents and patients in a nursing home. This could mean joining a ministry that serves the needy and under-resourced such as a soup kitchen or food pantry. This could mean going on a short-term mission trip that serves people in different ethnic groups. The opportunities to

serve others are endless, and I would be happy to help you find a place to serve.

I addressed several points in the article, so allow me to summarize. If you want to be a follower of Jesus and not just a fan:

1. Spend time in God's Word – especially the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Let Christ's words dwell in you deeply. Take personal notes about what Jesus says about being a follower.



Spend time in God's Word  
Serve people.

2. Serve people. There are many different serving opportunities that will help shift the focus off of yourself and on to others. Serving others helps us die to ourselves.

Learning to be a follower of Jesus is not easy or simple, but if you consistently spend time in God's Word and engage in opportunities to serve people, these two activities will go a long way in helping to move you down the road to following of Jesus.

## Volunteers Needed:

We are looking for more men and women to help with our ministry to the residents at Pleasant Meadows Christian Village on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Call Janet Leisch for more information at 443-2344, or e-mail her at [p.leisch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.leisch@sbcglobal.net).

## Winter Jam Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with Winter Jam Tour on March 31 at Assembly Hall in Champaign. Please think of this as a ministry opportunity, as many volunteers will not be able to watch the show. If you are not available to help on the day of the concert, there are lots of ways you can help get the word out before the event. If you are 16 or older and are interested in helping, contact Tricia Whitcomb and leave a message at (217)477-5770 or (217)415-6986.

## YOUNG AT HEART

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Beautiful Oak Hill Mansion in Carmel, IN, on Thursday, March 15. The cost is \$33 for the musical program and meal. The bus leaves the church at 8:45 am and returns at 4:00 pm. Reservations and money are due to Gloria (446-5357) or Sue (442-7555) by March 4.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### Widow's Might

Thursday, March 8, at 12:15 in the Cafe. Lunch will be a baked potato bar, salad, and pie. Devotions by Polly Sullivan, followed by our March Movie Matinee. Widow's Might is for all widows in our church and community. Come and join us this month.

### Christian Book Club

Monday, March 26, at 6:30 pm at Judy's house (1704 N. Vermilion). The book for March is The Queen by Steven James. Read the book and come and share with us.

### Singles@Second

Friday, March 2, in Hallelujah Hall at 6:00 pm. It is Pizza and Movie Night! Singles@Second is for all single people - young, old, divorced, widowed, or never married. Come and join us for this time of fellowship.

### Ladies Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. \$8.00 per person. Look for more information to come.

### Christian Women's Conference at Lincoln Christian University

Wednesday, April 25. The Conference theme is "Spaghetti for the Soul" with Ellia Lofaro and Kathy Troccoli. Registration fee is \$30.00 before April 18 and \$35.00 after that date. Registration forms are available at the Women's Bulletin Board or can be picked up in the church office. Send in your own registration, and then call the church office if you would like to ride on the church van to Lincoln. For more information see Judy Mentzer.

### Supper @ Second

Supper @ Second is our fellowship meal on Wednesday nights. Dinner is served cafeteria style. This is a great opportunity to get to know your 2CC family. Supper is served from 5:15 pm to 6:15 pm (CST).

**MARCH 7** - Baked Chicken and Rice, Layered Lettuce Salad, Buttered Caramel Carrots and German Chocolate Cake

**MARCH 14** - Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Corn and Assorted Cookies

**MARCH 21** - Pork BBQ on Bun, Baked Beans, Frosted Strawberry Jell-O Salad and Layered Chocolate Dessert

**MARCH 28** - Beef Stew, Green Beans, Cranberry Salad, Sherbet and Cookies

### Sunday Morning Attendance

	2/5	2/12	2/19	2/26
1 <sup>st</sup> Service	116	113	126	122
2 <sup>nd</sup> Service	294	345	290	292
3 <sup>rd</sup> Service	611	607	546	633
4 <sup>th</sup> Service	119	106	109	145

Total	1,140	1,171	1,071	1,192
ABF/Sunday School	189	360	368	379

### Actual Offering Received

2/5	\$28,195.55
2/12	\$29,098.52
2/19	\$28,103.72
2/26	\$28,077.42

### Goal for Erase the Comma

New Target	\$36,769.85
Loan Balance as of 2/19 -	\$1,036,768.85



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### March, 2012

Sundays      Worship Services, College Study  
Mondays      Men's Basketball, Boy Scouts  
Tuesdays      OASIS  
Wednesday      Supper@Second, Common Bond  
Thursdays      Women's Bible Study  
Friday's      Co-ed Volleyball

2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>      Jr - Hi SuperStar Trip  
2<sup>nd</sup>      Singles@Second  
3<sup>rd</sup>      High School Nerf Wars  
8<sup>th</sup>      Widow's Might  
11<sup>th</sup>      Monthly Missions Meeting  
13<sup>th</sup>      Our Brother's Keeper Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup>      My Doll & Me Tea Party  
18<sup>th</sup>      High School Mission Trip Meeting  
19<sup>th</sup>      Back To The Streets Ministry  
26<sup>th</sup>      Book Club at Judy's  
27<sup>th</sup>      Pleasant Meadows

# RISEN

INTO OUR DARKNESS  
GOD BRINGS LIGHT

Easter at the Palmer Arena  
April 8 • 10:00 am