

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

Newsletter

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No. 2

Did You Know?

While most people have never heard of Bernard Coffindaffer, many have seen the results of his work. Born in 1935 in Craigsville, West Virginia, and orphaned at the age of ten, Coffindaffer managed to finish high school at age fourteen, serve six years in the U.S. Marines, and go on to graduate from the University of Charleston with a degree in business. He established a coal-washing business and made a small fortune in the mountains of West Virginia.

But the coal-washing business is not the work of Coffindaffer that has touched the hearts of so many people. This work began when he became a Christian at the age of 42. He soon became a minister and served seven small churches in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. Coffindaffer had sold his business and netted nearly three million dollars. In 1984, he took that money and began erecting sets of three large crosses along the highways and roads of the United States and the world. In the last nine years of his life, Coffindaffer erected crosses in 29 states, the District of Columbia, Zambia, and the Philippines. A total of 1,864 clusters of crosses now stand by interstates and local highways and country lanes.

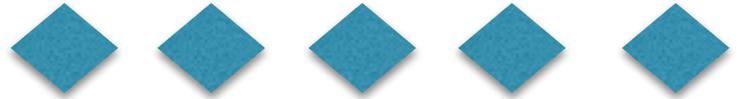
Maybe you have seen some of them, these silent witnesses for Jesus Christ. The crosses are made of California Douglas Fir with the center cross painted gold befitting the royalty of the Messiah. The crosses on the left and the right are painted pale blue. There are three nails in each cross, one at each of the cross arms and one halfway down the main shaft of the cross. Each nail represents where the hands and feet of the crucified were nailed. At the erection of each set of crosses, a service of consecration was held. Scripture would be read and a prayer of dedication would be offered.

In 1993 Bernard Coffindaffer died penniless of a heart attack at the age of 68. He left a tremendous legacy for all to see. He said the crosses were erected for only one reason: "To remind people that Jesus was crucified on a cross at Calvary for our sins." He was happy if the crosses "would make one person stop and think."

Questions to Ask at the New Year

In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year?

What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?



Years ago Harry A. Ironside, that great Bible teacher, told a story about an older Christian who was asked to give his testimony. The man told how God had sought him out and found him, how God had loved him, called him, saved him, delivered him, cleansed him, and healed him—a great witness to the grace, power, and glory of God. But after the meeting a rather legalistic brother took him aside and criticized his testimony, as certain of us like to do. He said, "I appreciated all you said about what God did for you. But you didn't mention anything about your part in it. Salvation is really part us and part God. You should have mentioned something about your part."

"Oh, yes," the older Christian said. "I apologize for that. I'm sorry. I really should have said something about my part. My part was running away, and his part was running after me until he caught me."

Ray C. Stedman, Guilt to Glory, vol. 1, Hope for the Helpless

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Genesis 28:20-22 (KJV)

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, **21** So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: **22** And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER NEEDS

ILLNESS: **Theo Baulding** (*Still needs prayer*); **The Gregorays** (*Hope – Alzheimer's, Gary – Caregiver*); **Mae Wilburn** (*Still needs prayer*); **The Owens** (*Margaret's sister Phyllis, now at home, is making some progress, receiving therapy and breathing treatments. Their son-in-law Scott is still on chemo. His prognosis is still good. Praise God!*); **Mary Renegar** (*Recently diagnosed COPD*); **Peggy Mitchell** (*Has several rib fractures, now at the Oaks, Rm 213, for rehab*); **Boswell Family** (*Harold's sister Virginia with Alzheimer's. Shirley's sister Audrey, Parkinson's*); **Grady Pack** (*Recuperating at home after a stay in hospital, on oxygen and many meds. Also suffering from gout.*); **Cynthia Ward**. (*Sick with the flu*); **Audrey Estes** (*Shirley Boswell's sister, passed away Sunday night*); **Tim Robinson** (*heart fibrillation*).
Remember all our shut-ins.

CHURCH NEEDS: Support for the new Session and Diaconate; Congregational love & unity; Pastor Search.

MISSIONARIES: Andy & Nannette Howard (Pakistan), Jeff & Lisa King (Chile), Ali & Tara Mitchell (ARP Connect), Jubilee Birthday Ladies – Sheila Osborne & Nannette Howard

OTHER MISSIONS: Doug Arms (Elon), Jesse Wesselink (International Students, Inc), Siloam Missionary Homes, Alamance Pregnancy Center, Allied Churches, Meals on Wheels

LADIES EVENT! Mystery Dinner

"She's Flown the Coop" will be Friday February 20, 2015 at 6pm at the church. Mrs. Merryfeather's pet Polly the parrot has a knack for repeating things. Polly had better watch out: someone has a secret and is afraid Polly has overheard. Where is Polly? Has she flown the coop or is this crafty bird just flying under the radar? Ladies of all ages: Please join us for an evening of fun, food, fellowship and mystery-solving. Each participant will be given an identity, a few clues that only she will know, and questions to ask other participants. We will get to know each other better as we work together to solve the mystery. Please feel free to invite friends to join in the fun. RSVP to Jessica Richardson 336-437-4388 or richardson.jessica83@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Donald Childrey	2/2
Dylan Jones	2/2
Janice Richardson	2/4
Samuel Orr	2/5
John Robinson	2/7
George McKinney	2/10
Margaret Owens	2/10
Abigail Newton	2/13
Jan Burwell	2/15
Lynn Limon	2/18
Al Wright	2/18
Alex Jones	2/22
John Greeson	2/23
Karen Jones	2/27
Mary Lou McKinney	2/27
Jim Christopher	2/28
Tim Bessette	2/29

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Cathy Young (36)	2/3
Gene & Helen Parks (63)	2/8

LADIES EVENT!

The Exchange will be Sunday, March 21, 2015 from 2 to 4pm. This is a clothing/accessory (clothes, jewelry, purses, shoes, etc.) swap at the church. You do not have to bring anything to attend. There will be an early drop-off box in the Narthex for items. Set up will start at 1:30pm. Any items not taken on the day of the event will be donated. Please invite your friends.

MINISTRY REMINDERS

Nursery:

Feb 1: Nicole Newton
Macon Baird
Feb 8: Fran Haynes
Connie Bennett

Counter:

Feb 1: Stephen Robinson
Feb 8: Gene Parks

Deacon Duty:

Feb 1: Doug Glass
Feb 8: Stephen Robinson