



Steeple News

2011

May



Song of Solomon 2:12



From the Pastor

Two elderly guys are wondering if there's baseball in heaven. So they promise each other that the first to die will somehow let the other one know. A week later, one of them dies. Not long after his death, his friend recognizes his voice coming down from the clouds. "Joe, I've got some good news and some bad news," the voice reports. "The good news is that there *is* a baseball team in heaven. The bad news is that you're pitching on Friday."

We are a generation of people looking for signs. We want proof like the man from Missouri, so we demand brute facts about the world in which we live. It's hard for a scientific generation to take any leaps of faith, because we are so obsessive about having confirmation for everything that happens in the world.

As a result, our society is a hard nut to crack when it comes to leaps of faith. We love for our technology to be readily available, even though we have no idea how it works. In a way, that is a kind of faith leap. But when the diehard technologists actually come to believe in otherworldly events, that's a miracle in and of itself.

The people of Jesus' day believed in sea monsters and ghosts. When it rained they believed that the gods had sent it as a gift. When it didn't rain they believed that they were somehow being punished. It might have been easier for them to believe in the supernatural than for us.

The disciple, Thomas was way ahead of his time since he needed proof that Jesus had come back from the dead. Like a forensic scientist at a CSI lab, he wanted to see the marks of Jesus' brutal execution. The other disciples chose to believe just the rumors about Christ's return from the grave.

It would seem, then, that we can break down faith into two basic categories: 1. Simple faith that needs little coaxing to believe. 2. Complex faith that needs to put the evidence to the test. For this, the Lord declares that it is better to believe without seeing than to believe by seeing the facts. However, both approaches ultimately bring us to a place of faith.

Are you a person that can believe without proof? Then God bless you – you're on your way to an existence based purely on faith. Do you need to see the nail prints in the Lord's hands before you believe? Well, God bless you, also, for you have also made a faith affirmation. Do you still doubt from time to time? God bless you, too, for even doubt is a statement of faith that is looking to believe.

Don't despair that you can't just believe without evidence to the fact. Rejoice in the fact that through doubt and skepticism we can eventually emerge into the realm of God's reality. Whether we believe or doubt, it's no matter. God was with you all the time.

Pastor Gary

Remember in Prayer: The family of Phil Grech, Judy Shover, Cara Smith, Stewardship team, Brenda Russell, Cathy Knox Dick Angelo, Shawn Sarrica, Georgianna Rush (member of Gail Eakin's church), Celeste Bonnaminio Kelley (Frank Gioffre's niece), Jackie Harward, Lisa Adams, Irvin and Gladys Schatz, Patty Snow, Pat Clemens (Amy Pogacsnik's sister), people battling cancer, and all God's children suffering through disasters.—**Mary Ann Robinson—Prayer Chain**



Remember those in nursing centers or confined at home:

Linda Grech	Twilight Gardens 196 West Main St., Norwalk, OH 44857
Pauline Ward	The Inn at Chapple Creek 6010 W. Lake Rd., Apt 122, Vermilion 44089
Ruth Hite	Norwalk Memorial Home 272 Benedict Ave, Norwalk, OH 44857
Bob Schuster	Secret Home 1 South Rm. 105 3416 Columbus Ave, Sandusky 44870
Jean Daniels	85 Center Street, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Gladys Knott	64 South Street, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Peg Reising	31 Center Street, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Martha Downing	12300 SR 61 S, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Donna Blackann	4 Valley View, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Georgianna Brunow	9606 Thorpe Rd., Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Jack Twaddle	5000 St. Rt. 601 Norwalk, OH 44857
Mike Oehling	53 W. Main Street, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Fran Malone	12005 Bellamy Road, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Eda Plue	338 Rinehart Road, Bellville, OH 44813
Peg Puder	Admiral's Point 1920 Cleveland Road E, Huron, OH 44839
Gladys Schatz	50 E. Main Street, Berlin Heights, OH 44814
Max Krueger	8303 Main Road, Berlin Heights, OH 44814

To the Ladies of Women's Fellowship, On behalf of Ching and the Ken Plue family, I wish to thank you for the outpouring of love bestowed on us. Bless the hands that prepared and served the luncheon. You were very generous with you time and making your facility available to us.

Sincerely, **The Ken Plue Family**

I want to thank all who purchased Lilies for Easter. They were beautiful and fragrant.
Thanks again. —**Diane Willis Diaconate**



I want to thank everyone, Pastor Gary, Amy and Dan. As Bob's, Phil's friend, tee shirt said "We are all God's family—No exceptions." Pass the peace of God's love and cleanse ourselves as we head into the Celebration of Christ's death and resurrection or our brother Phil has died in vain. May we all meet on Friday with hugs and only love for each other. I love you and forgive each one of you, but I have moved to another place in my life's journey with God.

—**Deb Oehling** via e-mail 4/31/11

Christian Education would like to thank all the bakers and buyers for supporting the Bake Sale for Vacation Bible School set for June 13—17.

—**Connie Deehr Christian Education**

Thanks to **Pat Carson**, our new treasurer.

—**BH Historical Society**



The Trustees wish to thank the generous group who made the new copier possible. The copier has found a home in the church office.

— **Trustees**





Lectionary Bible Readings

Sun., May 1*Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Sun., May 8*Third Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

Sun., May 15*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

Sun., May 22*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sun., May 29*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

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Children's Lenten
Program held during
fellowship hour on
Palm Sunday
"Remembering
The Last Supper."





May Tea

Sunday, May 1, 2011

3:00 p.m.

Fowler Room

Program on

Tussey Mussey's

by

Pauline Malone

Happy Mental Health Month! Our mental (or emotional) dimension is one aspect of wholistic health, and is very important to our well being.

What really is mental health? The emotional dimension focuses on an awareness and acceptance of one's feelings. Emotional health involves the degree to which a person feels positive and enthusiastic about oneself and one's life. This includes the capacity to manage one's feelings and behaviors.

What the Bible says about mental health: St. Paul encourages us with these words, *"...Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus: (Php. 4:6, 7).* What a comfort these words are! In spite of stressful, difficult times in which we live, God's peace can help us to be whole emotionally.

What can you do to improve your mental health? First develop a realistic assessment of your limitations. Look objectively at your strengths and weaknesses. Talk to yourself in an affirming way, just like you would to a friend. Work on developing your strengths. Work to cope effectively with stress- such as changing your environment to reduce stress. Self talk in positive manners, take care of your body in healthy ways. Lastly develop satisfying relationships with others.

May we all work towards developing our mental health and living in God's peace as whole persons.

(taken from Seasons of Wholeness Vol. 1 Ruth Dankanich Daumer MSN, RN).

Deb Oehling

Jill Schafer RN, BSN
[Community](#) Relations Coordinator
Fisher-Titus Medical Center



Family Fun Day



May 15th during Social Hour





What My Mother Taught Me

Third Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2011

Mother's Day; Festival of the Christian Home

The kitchen table – where so many of life's important moments occur – is where the Reverend Sharon Lee MacArthur remembers learning to give the best away.

"My mother had turned the entire back yard into a garden," Sharon says, "and it was at the kitchen table where I helped her sort the vegetables. Neighbors and acquaintances received the best ones – the cream of the crop. Cousins and other extended family members were given the ones that were not as pretty. The vegetables that had some damage were used in our immediate household. With my mother, I experienced sharing our abundance. It was a celebration of what we had and included all those around us."

Sharon describes how she took to heart that childhood lesson of sharing, when she and her husband first joined a church. She says, "Even though there were no assets to speak of, we decided to tithe. All of these wonderful things started to happen. The idea of sharing with the family of God had always been abstract. As I meet other people on this journey – people in other cultures, people of other ethnicities, and people from other countries – it becomes more real. I have a new definition of the family of God. A sharing and generous heart comes much more naturally."

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

B2 - BIT O' BLESSING BOX (Limited Quantities. Order early online.) \$22*

2 lb. Gourmet Dining Beef or Chicken Stir Fry	1.5 lb. Boneless Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.)	6 oz. Corn Bread Stuffing
3 lb. IQF Chicken Drumsticks	24 oz. French Fries	5 ct. Flavored Instant Oatmeal
2 lb. Ham Chowder	6.9 oz. Beef or Chicken Flavored Rice	7.5 oz. Break-n-Bake Cookies
1 lb. All Beef Smoked Sausage	& Vermicelli	

B1 - "BREAD OF LIFE" SIGNATURE BOX \$35*

1.5 lb. New York Strip Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)	1 lb. 100% Ground Chicken	1 lb. Pasta
2.5 lb. IQF Split Chicken Breasts (Resealable Bag)	1 lb. Garden Peas	1 lb. Long Grain Brown Rice
2 lb. Gourmet Mac & Beef Entrée (5% More Beef!)	1 lb. Green Beans	16 ct. Sweet Hawaiian Dinner Buns
1.5 lb. Bone-In Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.)	28 oz. Diced Tomatoes	32 oz. 2% Shelf-Stable Milk
1.5 lb. Fully Cooked Meatballs	1 lb. Seasoned Waffle Fries	1 Dozen Eggs
1.5 lb. Maple Flavored Breakfast Sausage Links	2 lb. Fresh Sweet Georgia Vidalia Onions	7.5 oz. Break-n-Bake Cookies
1 lb. 100% Ground Turkey		

B3 - BOUNTIFUL BLESSING BOX \$46*

1.5 lb. New York Strip Steaks (Small Bone, 4 x 6 oz.)	1 lb. 100% Ground Turkey	2 lb. Fresh Sweet Georgia Vidalia Onions
1.5 lb. Lean Hamburger Steaks (4 x 6 oz.)	1 lb. 100% Ground Chicken	1 lb. Pasta
2.5 lb. IQF Split Chicken Breasts (Resealable Bag)	1 lb. Garden Peas	16 ct. Sweet Hawaiian Dinner Buns
2 lb. Gourmet Mac & Beef Entrée (5% More Beef!)	1 lb. Green Beans	16 oz. Complete Pancake Mix (Just Add Water)
2 lb. Gourmet Dining Shrimp Stir Fry	1 lb. Corn	32 oz. 2% Shelf-Stable Milk
1.5 lb. Bone-In Pork Chops (4 x 6 oz.)	1 lb. Sugar Snap Peas & Carrots	1 Dozen Eggs
1.5 lb. Fully Cooked Meatballs	28 oz. Diced Tomatoes	7.5 oz. Break-n-Bake Cookies
2 lb. All Meat Hot Dogs	1 lb. Seasoned Waffle Fries	
1.5 lb. Maple Flavored Breakfast Sausage Links	1 lb. Long Grain Brown Rice	

B4 - FAST & FLAVORFUL CUISINE \$29*

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| • Roasted White Chicken | • Swedish Meatballs with Sauce over Noodles | • White Chicken Mexican |
| • Salisbury Steak and Gravy | • Fettuccini Alfredo | • White Chicken Tetrazzini |
| • Fish Sticks | • White Chicken and Gravy | • Sweet and Sour Pulled Pork |
| • Meatloaf and Gravy | | |

GLUTEN FREE! B5 - ALLERGEN FREE FOOD BOX \$25 (plus sales tax where applicable)

1 lb. Breaded Chicken Breast Nuggets	1 lb. Breaded Breast Fillet Patties	1 lb. Breaded Cubed Steak
1 lb. Breaded Chicken Tenderloins	1 lb. Breaded Boneless Chicken Wings	

B6 - JUST 4 ME - AFTER SCHOOL BOX \$25 (plus sales tax where applicable)

2 lb. Breaded Chicken Fingers	2 (3 oz.) Grilled Cheese Sandwich	2 (3.7 oz.) Breaded Chicken Sandwich (Twin Packs)
16 oz. Corn Dogs (2 x 8 oz. bags)	2 (4 oz.) Pocket Sandwich	
18 oz. Pizza Bites (3 x 6 oz. bags)	2 (3.7 oz.) Twin Charbroiled Beef Sandwich w/Cheese (Twin Packs)	1.3 lb. Fruit Medley
4 (2.8 oz.) Peanut Butter and Jelly Jamwich	2 (2.2 oz.) PBJ on Graham Wafers	2 (3.4 oz.) Watermelon Italian Ice
		2 (3.2 oz.) Raspberry Fruit Juice Sherbet

B7 - JUST 4 ME - NO CHILD GOES WITHOUT \$25 (plus sales tax where applicable)

10 ct. Instant Oatmeal (2 x 5 ct. Boxes)	7.5 oz. Spaghetti and Mini Meatballs	1 ea. Grape Jelly (20 oz.)
	7.5 oz. Noodle Rings & Chicken	2 ea. Chunk Lite Tuna in Water (.5 oz.)
7.5 oz. Beans & Wieners	7.5 oz. Cheezy Mac 'n Franks	6 pk. Applesauce
7.5 oz. Cheezy Mac 'n Cheese	7 ea. Cereal Bowls (.75 oz. ea.)	5 ea. Granola Bars (.25 oz. ea.)
7.5 oz. Mini Beef Ravioli	1 ea. Peanut Butter (12 oz.)	32 oz. Shelf-Stable 2% Milk

B8 - JUST 4 ME - FRUIT AND VEGGIE \$17 (plus sales tax where applicable)

3 Red Apples	3. Navel Oranges	1 (6-pk.) Raisins
3 Green Apples	1 Stalk, Sleeved Celery	1 (12 oz.) Peanut Butter
3 Pears	1 lb. Mini Peeled Carrots	1 (3 oz.) Dried Cranberries with Honey Roasted Almonds

B9 - Pastor Joe's Premium Box (Limited Quantities. Order Online Early) \$55*

40 oz. Angus Sirloin Steaks (4 X 10 oz.)	12 oz. Bag, Onion Rings	24 oz. Steak Fries
1.5 lb. Large Breaded Butterfly Shrimp	1 lb. Sliced Carrots	1 lb. Frozen Cauliflower Florets
2 lb. Angus Steak Burgers (4 x 8 oz.)	1 lb. Whole Kernel Corn	1 lb. Green Peas

S1 - MAY SPECIAL #1 \$26*

5 lb. NY Strip Steak Special
5 lb. Bone-In NY Strip Steaks (8 x 10 oz.)

S2 - MAY SPECIAL #2 \$25*

6 lb. Memorial Day Grill Box
3 lb. Hamburger Patties (8 x 6 oz.)
3 lb. Seasoned Chicken Breasts (8 x 6 oz.) (4 Honey Mustard, 4 Italian)

*all prices are plus sales tax where applicable

Please see our website for online-only specials

S3 - MAY SPECIAL #3 \$24*

Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box	
1 head	Sleeved Romaine Lettuce
2 lb. bag	Fresh Sweet Georgia Vidalia Onions
1 pk.	Grape Tomatoes
1 lb.	Carrots
1	(5.5 oz. bag) Green Onions
2	Cucumbers
1	(6 oz. bag) Radishes
4 ea	Baking Potatoes
1 head	Green Cabbage
1	Cantaloupe
1	Golden Ripe Pineapple
6	Lemons
4	Red Apples
4	Navel Oranges
1	Fruit and Veggie Recipe Sheet

First Congregational UCC 5 E. Main St., Berlin Heights, OH 419-588-2102

Order Dates: **Sunday, May 8th** in Fowler room at church 11:30am.
Wednesday, May 11 at BHCC from 11am-1pm

Distribution: **Saturday, May 21** at BHCC at 10am

- Angel Food is open to everyone.
- No minimum requirements.
- Ohio EBT card taken on order days.
- Questions contact Barb Bement 440-839-2264 or Church Office 419-588-2102
- www.angelfoodministries.com or 1-888-819-3745



Christian Enlistment is looking forward to a Spring drive to bridge the budget gap. We have formed a Stewardship Team with members who have a Big Heart and a Big Love for our church. We ask you to pray and consider your response.

—Barb Bement, Dorothy Daniels, Andy Aruskevicius / Christian Enlistment

Point of Light Missions is looking into the Adopt-A-Highway program with the state of Ohio. The area that is adopted is along an Ohio Interstate, U.S. Route or State Route outside a village or city corporation limit. Each section is approximately 2 miles long. The agreement is for two years and pickup trash 4 times a year. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old. ODOT provides safety training, safety vests and trash bags. ODOT will also place bi-directional highway signs in recognition of the our church. If you would be interested in being part of this group please contact Rev. Gary or Becky Coleman. —Becky Coleman
Point of Light

Tool Sale— Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11

Looking for donation of yard, garden, hand, and power tools in good working order. Contact Bob Bement at 440-839-2264 or 440-935-1067 for more information or pick up.
-Bob Bement Point of Light

To help our environment, we are collecting coffee mugs to be used during fellowship hour instead of Styrofoam cups. Let's Reduce and Reuse!

Becky Coleman—Point of Light

Spring is here and time to start cleaning! While you are cleaning, please save any gently used items to donate to our annual rummage sale during the Basket Festival on August 6 and 7th. We will start to collect items mid to late July. Please no clothing. Any questions please contact Becky Coleman. This year the profits from the sale will go to the general fund as well as a local mission. Becky Coleman Point of Light



**Berlin Heights
Memorial Day Parade
Monday, May 30th—9:00a.m.**

Gather on Main Street in front of
First Congregational Church
March to Riverside Cemetery for Service
then onto Memorial Park.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast

May 30th

7:00a.m.—11:00a.m.

At First Congregational Church



Berlin Heights Community Center Update

There are currently three Eagle Scout projects underway at the Berlin Heights Community Center. The projects are: rebuilding a safe stairway at the rear entrance of the building, placing protective covers on the inside of the stained glass windows in the building, and creation of restful bench area for public use on CC property.

A fundraising raffle is in the works for the CC. A large basket of merchandise is being gathered to be raffled with the final drawing for the winner to take place during the Basket Festival. Merchants from a wide area are being solicited for raffle items and it is expected that \$1000 to \$1500 worth of prize merchandise will be included in the basket. Ticket sales will start in June.

May meetings of the BHCC board will take place at 6:00pm on May 3rd, May 17th, and May 31st. Anyone with positive ideas for the Center is welcome to attend.

—Glen Bernhardt BHCC

**Pentecost
and
Confirmation Sunday
June 12, 2011**

Vision Team II —Sign-Up

A sign-up sheet for those looking to the future of our church. Come join the vision team. Sign-up or contact Dan Pogacsnik 440-839-1300 or Pastor Gary 419-588-2102 at the church office.



—Renee Robinson

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

May 1 Keith Grech
May 2 Amelia Plunkett
May 3 George DeMuth
May 4 Griffin Soviak
May 4 Keegon Dingle
May 7 Gabrielle Shupe
May 7 Reese Ott
May 9 Barbara Hargreaves
May 9 Kylee Cook
May 10 Michael & Bethany Stipp
May 10 Karen Lindner
May 10 Chris Wyant
May 10 Laura Deehr
May 11 Chase Aruskevicius
May 12 Todd & Julia Whittington
May 13 Linda Grech
May 13 Alexis Burnham
May 14 Joseph Burnham 111
May 14 Keegon Dingle
May 15 Michael Oehling11
May 15 Mallory Jamison
May 17 Frank Hill
May 17 Chip Shover
May 17 Christopher Drake

May 17 Stella Shover
May 18 Martha Burnham
May 19 Julianna Burnham
May 21 Kayla McDonald
May 22 George & Cheryl DeMuth
May 22 Walter Tuttle
May 22 Holly Schedley
May 22 Natalie Robson
May 24 Eda Plue
May 25 Tyler Old
May 27 Denene Jamison
May 27 Elyse Turton
May 28 Michael 11 & Tevon Oehling
May 31 Shannon & Victoria Gibbs
May 31 Bryan Bittner
May 31 Scott Stith



Our May Worship Leaders

May.1 Ushers: **Bill Deehr, Tom Holland**

 Diane Willis

 Acolyte: **Rylie Mullen**

 Liturgist: **Nancy Wallace**

 Children's Story: **Ethel Lois Smith**

 Nursery:

 Coffee Hosts: _____

May.8 Ushers: **Bill Deehr, Tom Holland**

 Diane Willis

 Acolyte: **Chase Aruskevicius**

 Liturgist:

 Children's Story: **Rev. Gary Proietti**

 Nursery:

 Coffee Hosts:

May.15 Ushers: **Bill Deehr, Tom Holland**

 Diane Willis

 Acolyte: **James Hill**

 Liturgist: **Wilma Jean Kernell**

Children's Story: **Bobette Nemire**

Nursery:

Coffee Hosts:

May.22 Ushers: **Bill Deehr, Tom Holland**

Diane Willis

Acolyte: **Tristen Wikel**

Liturgist:

Children's Story:

Nursery:

Coffee Hosts: **Carson/Robinson**

May.29 Ushers: **Bill Deehr, Tom Holland**

Diane Willis

Acolyte: **Lanease Cook**

Liturgist:

Children's Story:

Nursery:

Coffee Host:

First Congregational Church and Society

United Church of Christ

Reverend Gary Proietti

5 E. Main Street

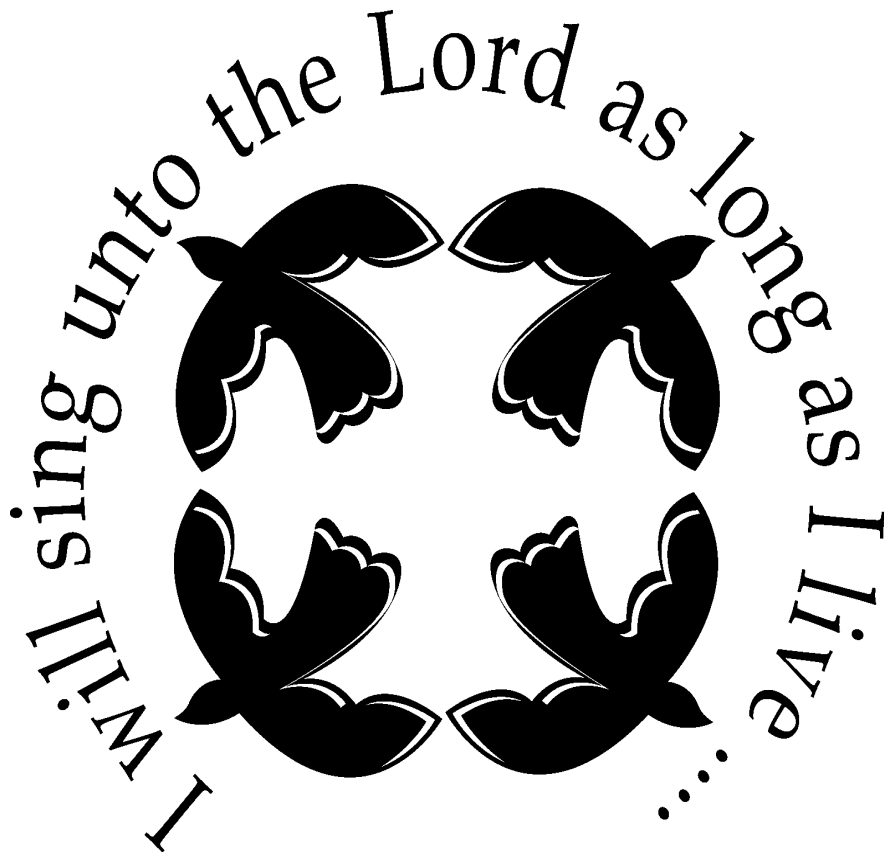
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Website: www.thebigwhitechurch.com



Psalm 104:33