9,400 SEE SONRISE

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who helped tell the awesome story of Christ’s sacrifice for our sins by participating in SonRise... whether you were in costume, in a staff shirt, or worked behind the scenes. It takes each and every one of you to make it happen.

There were 8,750 tickets distributed for SonRise through community tickets and the limited number of member, outreach (available for member use), and student tickets. The rain sprinkles did not affect the attendance of the over 9,400 people who went through the Pageant. (The difference in ticket numbers and the number who saw it is because children six and under did not require a ticket yet were counted, as well as cast and volunteers being counted.)

The Sanctuary scene portrayed how God is there for us through all life’s trauma and difficulties, including the Boston Marathon bombing, Fort Hood shooting, school stabbing, home evasion, and house fires.

Throughout the rest of the Pageant attendees saw Jesus’ triumphal entry in the marketplace, eating the Last Supper with his disciples, being tempted in the Garden of Gethsemane, going before Pilate, and dying on the cross. But, the climax came watching him come out of the tomb!

One attendee commented, “It was pretty hard to watch the sacrifice scene. My morning was filled with a lot of emotion. Seeing an actual man live out what it would be like to be Jesus made such a huge impact on my heart. When I think about those things happening to the real Jesus it just tears my heart to pieces. He is so amazing for what He did and accomplished.”
SONRISE XIX
by Lil Yarosh

High 5’s? Drum Rolls? Flower Bouquets? Hand Claps? Horn Honks? Cheers? Twenty-one Gun Salutes? How does one begin to express appreciation to the vast crew that made SonRise a reality? For months, some of those who led out ate, drank, and slept SonRise, so immersed were they into the myriad organizational details. Students relinquished precious final exam study time to participate, some families put wedding plans on hold. Volunteers came from all ranks, from various churches, from busyness of all sorts.

The office staff couldn’t have been more patient, the parking attendants more smiley, the ticket takers more cheerful. The welcome in the sanctuary couldn’t have been warmer. The University Professor’s portrayal of leper despair couldn’t have been more poignant. The animals couldn’t have brought more glee to the throngs of passers-by—the young camels still to grow their humps, the huge mules, the precious lambs, the silly pig.

The Market Place vendors couldn’t have been more engaged—the little brick-maker with his mud-soaked feet, the hand-held bowl of yucky leeches.

The Last Supper couldn’t have been more meaningful, the Garden Scene more moving.

The angry shouts “Crucify Him” couldn’t have been more heart-wrenching. The lyrics of “Were You There?” couldn’t have been more touching.

The “angel” rolling aside the stone couldn’t have brought more joy to the imagination.

We’ve left out the stoic soldiers, the happy whirling girls, the many behind-the-scenes-ers, the planners, the preppers, the tear-downers and everyone in between.

To each and every contributor, in computer bold, we say “thank you” for taking so many down the road not just to a happy Easter but hopefully to a happy forever.

Pre-and post pageant stories abound:

The family seeing the pageant for the first time phoning just hours later, “Blessed to the Core of our Hearts”, requesting that 10 more tickets be reserved for next year to accommodate invitees they have in mind.

The woman with M.S. who waited in a wheelchair at the mall for 8 hours until ticket distribution time.

Unless there’s a SonComing before then, seems like SONRISE XX is much anticipated. (Next year will be our 20th SonRise.)

MINISTRY OPP

Our OFF (Outdoor Family Fellowship) ministry is looking for new leadership. OFF is an amazing ministry for growing connections among our church family. If you have an interest in organizing a once a month opportunity for hiking, food and fellowship, contact Pastor Carole at everrill@southern.edu or (423) 994-2396 to see how you can get involved.

IN MEMORY

Richard (Dick) E. Myers, husband of Donna and father of Mark Myers and Michael Myers, passed away April 19. Services were held April 25. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Great Lakes Academy, P.O. Box 68, Cedar Lake, MI 48812 or Michael J. Fox Parkinson’s Foundation, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163-4777.
AW SPALDING is seeking resumes for the position of Office Manager. This is an hourly position that is the center of school operations in support of students, staff, and parents. Please send resumes with references to Tom Fogg at tfogg@gccsda.com. Call Tom at 396-2122 with questions.

COOL CAMP: May 27 to August 1; swim, throw, catch, run, draw, color, laugh, sing, and learn with the purpose of living for Jesus! Ages 6 to 13. Registration is May 6 at 6:00 p.m. Applications available at www.coolcamp.org or in the Church Office.

BETTY EDWARDS celebrated her 90th birthday April 7. She would enjoy receiving birthday cards at PO Box 354, Collegedale, TN 37315. If you would like to plan a visit, call Toni at (423) 309-3216 and leave a message.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS my appreciation for all the prayers, cards and visits from this congregation and church staff during my recent hospital stay. I am sure that this was a help in my recovery. Robert Lorren

SEVENTH GRADERS, parents, friends, family, and Church family you are invited to The Blessing which is a special ceremony where we will surround 7th graders to communicate love and ask for God’s blessings in their lives. This ceremony celebrates their transition from childhood, commemorating it with a custom-designed coin that says, “I choose to follow Jesus forever” and “I choose to share Jesus always.” May 9 at 7:00 p.m. at CAYA Central.

DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE in video production? Do you like working with young people and want to use your talent for ministry? The Adult Ministries Development Team would like to produce several one minute videos to highlight the various ministries of the church. Young people will act as “field reporters.” We are looking for someone with some knowledge of film or video production to lead out in this project. If interested, contact Pastor Ken at (423) 954-0046 or kennorton@southern.edu.

DINNER WITH THE DOCTOR Monday, May 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m. “Taking the pressure off Hypertension.” Learn practical tips of what you can do naturally to slow or reverse hypertension. Reserve your seat now! ($5) Invite a new friend. Call (423) 315-1950 or www.instep4life.com.

SABBATH, MAY 3
8:45 a.m. Adoration 1: Chelsy Calumpiano
Adult Sabbath Schools
10:15 a.m. Adoration 2: Sam Chetty
Sabbath Schools
11:30 a.m. Connect: Sam Chetty
Offering: Church Family Budget
8:27 p.m. Sunset

TUESDAY, MAY 6
10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Studies

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7
10:00 a.m. 55+ Activities
7:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Group

THURSDAY, MAY 8
10:00 a.m. 55+ Bible Study

SABBATH, MAY 10
8:45 a.m. Adoration 1: Dave Smith
Adult Sabbath Schools
10:15 a.m. Adoration 2: Dave Smith
Sabbath Schools
11:35 a.m. Connect: Andy Nash
11:35 a.m. Renewal: Dave Smith
Offering: COOL Camp Scholarships
8:33 p.m. Sunset

MONDAY, MAY 12
6:00 p.m. Dinner With The Doctor

TUESDAY, MAY 13
10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Studies