

THE MESSENGER

“CHOOSE LIFE AND LOVE GOD”

August 9, 2017

PRAYING AND CARING

Last week's VBS was a highlight for us! I enjoyed having over 100 people here each morning - and being able to get some work done through the office at the same time, as well as a funeral and dinner, and a rehearsal and wedding the same week. We are that cooperative and organized, I'm please to say.

But I'm thinking of two unseen things that make a difference.

Many of us were praying for VBS. From the worship prayers to the individual Prayer Pals to the daily VBS Prayer, we were inviting God to be part of the week and to work among us. One of my responsibilities was to open up the building each morning; one of my privileges was then to walk through the building turning on lights and praying for what would happen there, for the leaders, for the kids. And after we'd finished each day, I tried to walk through the building again to lock up and turn off lights, as well as to thank God for His help with everything and everyone.

And during the week there were hundreds of acts of caring and kindness that make a difference - from greeting to playing games to getting bandaids to helping with microphones to chasing little ones to providing rides to listening and smiling and being here. Most of those are little things in the big picture, but added together they make a big difference.

And that's true of all ministries and all life, praying and caring make the difference.

MC

VBS REPORT

We had a “chillingly” fun time at “Operation Arctic” last week! Each day found over 100 people in the building with 70 children (more or less) learning about the “coolest book on the planet” - the Bible! We also received over \$1000 in our VBS Offering which will go to the local Food Pantry! Thank you!

Food Pantry - Food Project & VBS

Since the VBS Offering focused on the Food Pantry, we let the kids see a partial amount of the food that their offering could buy. We took some of the monies allotted for the “Summer Food Project” of instant potatoes, crackers, and raisins and purchased 450 boxes of each of these items. We were also able to purchase 225 jars of peanut butter. We gathered the items and had the VBS kids take their picture with the products purchased. It was a visual to show that every family with children will receive our “Gift of Love” at the Food Pantry. Watch for the photos in the Prairie Press newspaper.

RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

It is too early to report exact figures from Edgar County and from the FCC team specifically. But we can report that the Edgar County RFL goal was \$35,000 and they surpassed it! We can also tell you that FCC was awarded the GOLD for the highest fundraising team. Thank you to all those who participated in the yard sale, the “Wine-ing For A Cure,” and the raffle. The winner of the quilt raffle was Sharon Phillips. We hope to have the specific figures for you by the next newsletter.

Youth Pastor Visits

For the next two weekends the Search Committee is bringing in two candidates to meet us and for us to meet them. They will be with us on Sunday mornings; we will not introduce them as candidates or ask them to preach, but we will include them in the Children's Sermon. Pray for the visits and the discernment of the right person.



Our sympathies are extended to the family & friends of member, Elenora Smittkamp, in her passing.

Welcome back to Jasmine Littlejohn from church camp!

Hospitalized: Lewis Thiel, Union
Cheston Hays, Carle

Home from the Hospital: Tom King, Rick Ward,
Cindy Mathis, Mamie Dart

Congratulations to M/M Michael & Sasha (Newhart) Stewart, who were married here on Saturday!



-- Community Bible Church for providing decorations/supplies from their VBS for ours;

-- Rowdy Brown & Daniel Smittkamp for their help with our decorations;

-- Directors Cindy Mathis & Mary K. Bradford & all the leaders, teachers, helpers;

-- Faye Eitel & Mary Helen Hamilton for the 8:00 accompaniments;

-- Avoree Gore & Kirsten Lutes for their Special Music;

-- Cindy Mathis, Steve Webb & Rev. Mike for the Children's Sermons;

-- Donna Moody, Sue Bennett & crew for the flexible funeral dinner served;

-- Jazzy Littlejohn for the children's reading, Emma Kennedy for the scripture reading, & Emma & Sammy Milam for the communion meditation on Children's Sunday;

-- Ken & Mary Helen Hamilton for the anniversary flowers;

-- Sue Bennett & Candi Milam & team for the successful "Relay For Life."

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**BECOMING LIKE CHRIST**

Down on my knees,  
I learned how to stand.

~~~~~  
AUGUST PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us. As so many of our young people look forward to a time of new beginnings, we ask Your guidance for them, that they make wise decisions in planning their future, and that they continue to strengthen their relationship with You. We ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen."

"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY"

We are pleased to welcome Alex Wood into the faith and family as he came forward to confess faith in Christ in preparation for baptism. Alex is the son of Cheston Hays, and grandson of Merle & Evelyn Hays. "Welcome to the Family!"



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

We would like to congratulate the 2017 Woman of the Year, Saunny Preston. She was recognized last Sunday during worship and will also be announced in the local newspaper.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Youth Pastor Search Committee: Sunday, Aug. 13 at 1:00 PM for interview.
- Youth Pastor Search Committee: Sunday, Aug. 20 at 1:00 PM for interview.
- Youth Pastor Search Committee: Monday, Aug. 21 at 5:30 PM for follow-up.
- Elder's meet Thursday, Sept. 7, 5:00 PM
- Board meets Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7:00 PM

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir will begin Wednesday rehearsals again at 6:30 PM on August 30 in preparation to sing in worship on Sunday, September 3. If singing is your gift, and you are available on Wednesday evenings, come join us.



TOWER WORK

We do not have a specific date, but it should be soon. You can watch for the activity that means the time is at hand.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKS

Scholarship recipients, pick up your check in the office, they are ready!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Thank you to all those who gave items or monetary donations toward our Christmas in July Emergency Buckets. The items will continue to be collected, supplemented, organized, and then delivered by the end of this month.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

Twice a year we collect pop tabs, used postage stamps, Campbell's UPC labels, used eye glasses, cell phones & chargers, and fronts of old greeting cards. The women's workshop will be on Thursday, September 14, at 9:00 AM, so bring in items and put in collection containers at the sign-up desk.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The next Community Kitchen will be Monday, August 21. Volunteers are appreciated and needed. Sign-up at the sign-up desk.

GOLDEN AGE

Golden age will meet for lunch on Tuesday, August 22 at 12:00 NN. The program will be by the group on "What I Did On My Summer Vacation." Sign-up for the luncheon and come share about your summer!

DISCIPLE MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Disciple Men's breakfast will be Saturday, August 19, at 8:00 AM at the Paris Family Restaurant.

CAMP LETTERS

Please note the camp letters on the bulletin board in the hallway from - Ben Young - Claire Young - as well as in the "Thank You" portion of the newsletter.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

What a fun and meaningful occasion! We have developed the tradition that, after VBS, we all get to hear the children sing their songs and help with the reports, offering, communion, benediction. How heart-warming! Thanks to all involved.

BLOODMOBILE

The community bloodmobile will be at the KC Hall on Monday, August 28, from 11:30-5:30.

SUMMER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Newsletters are mailed every other week in the summer, so the next newsletter will be August 23. Newsletters will go back to the weekly schedule beginning in September. Items due for the newsletter should be turned in no later than the Tuesday prior.

OFFICES CLOSED

The church offices will be closed Monday, September 4, for Labor Day.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning this Sunday, August 13, all youth and adults will meet for Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall for a special presentation by Barbara Dick on music. Children will have regular S.S. class upstairs with Linda Chittick.

MEN NEEDED!

As host of this year's Teacher's Breakfast, we are responsible for putting up and taking down the tables and chairs at the event to be held at Lake Ridge Christian Church. We will need men to put up tables on Tuesday, August 15, at 2:00 PM and then take them down on Wednesday, August 16 at 10:00 AM. If you are available for about an hour on one or both of these days, please sign-up or see Rev. Mike.

Thank You!

Dear FCC Family, Thank you to everyone in the FCC family for the MULTIPLE things you've done for me the past couple years. I really appreciate all of the prayers because of the things I've been going through recently. I'm so thankful the church pays for 1/2 of the cost too. I'm so glad I decided to go to camp because I have met so many amazing people so far. I've enjoyed all the mail I have gotten too. I am so happy to support Camp Walter Scott because they share a very good message. Thank you FCC Family!

Your summer camper, Claire Young

Dear FCC Family, Thank you for paying 1/2 the cost to camp this year and the year before. I was praying for you all, especially my prayer partner for all the love you sent in every card you sent to me. I am encouraging as many people as I can to go to church camp as possible.

Your summer camper, Ben Young

FCC Family, We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way for providing such a wonder experience in the "Operation Arctic" - VBS program this year. Prayer was plentiful, along with music, games, crafts, and food. Most important is the fact that we all know that the coolest book on earth is the BIBLE!!

God Bless, Mary K. Bradford & Cindy Mathis



THE MESSENGER

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Michael C. Dixon, Senior Minister ~ Troy Sanders, Youth Director

PERMIT #147

Paris, Illinois

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID



COME WORSHIP WITH US

EARLY WORSHIP 8:00 AM ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM ~ WORSHIP 10:00 AM

MISSION STATEMENT First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

"Believing in Christ,

Behaving as Christ,

Becoming like Christ"

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTENDANCE

We count because you count!

July 30: 8:00 - 54 10:00 - 103 Nursery - 6

TOTAL WORSHIP = 159

TOTAL SS = 39

Aug. 6: 8:00 - 48 10:00 - 150 Nursery - 9

TOTAL WORSHIP = 207

TOTAL SS = 36

OFFERING TOTALS

	July 30	Aug. 6, 2017
General Fund+P.P.*	\$4,492.75*	\$4,263.25
Sunday School	7.00	11.00
Food Pantry	90.00	135.00
Choices Preg.&Health	50.00	50.00
Emergency Fund	20.00	
VBS	24.00	50.00
MICE		10.00
Lunch On the Lawn		50.00
Disciples Out.-Missions	367.50	316.50
Christmas in July	300.00	
Memorial Fund	50.00	
Scholarship Fund	50.00	
Building Fund	615.00	382.50
TOTAL	\$6,066.25*	\$5,268.25

SERVING SCHED. continued for Aug. 13...

SOUND SYSTEM & PROJECTION: Chris Milam

SPECIAL MUSIC: Adrienne Haupt

SCRIPTURES: John 8:2-11

SERMON: A Singing Faith: "Rock of Ages"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

SERVING SCHEDULE: August 20, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Joel Gleckler

DEACONESS: Jenneane McDaniel

PIANIST: Dennis Thiel

9:00 AM: "Summer Sunday School"

10:00 AM: GREETERS: East: Greg, Tammy, Erin Terry

West: Lois DiMarzio, Janet Kirsch

ACOLYTES: Morgan Coombes, Sophia Young

WORSHIP LEADER: Doug Hasler

BREAD ELDER: John Chittick

DEACONESS: Megan Mathis

DEACONS: Team #1, Dan Smittkamp, Captain

JR DEACONS: Team #1

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rev. Mike Dixon

NURSERY HELPER: Claire Young

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Deena Hasler

AUG FRIENDSHIP VISITOR: Saunny Preston

AUG USHERS: Ken Dennison, Dean Smittkamp, Ron Stickler

SOUND SYSTEM: John Chittick

PROJECTION: Brady Chittick

SPECIAL MUSIC: Mathis Family

SCRIPTURES: John 6:21-34

SERMON: A Singing Faith: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

by Rev. Michael C. Dixon

THIRD SUNDAY COMMUNION: Doug Hasler

SERVING SCHED.: August 13, 2017

8:00 AM: ELDER: Dan Lynch

DEACONESS: Cathy Clawson

PIANIST: Faye Eitel

9:00 AM: "Summer Sunday School"

10:00 AM: GREETERS: W: Richard & Cathy Melendez

East: Dan, Lisa, Ethan, Mya Smittkamp

ACOLYTES: Claire Young, Taylor Shewey

WORSHIP LEADER: Pete Templeton

BREAD ELDER: Kim Woods

DEACONESS: Susan King

DEACONS: Team #3, Sue Bennett, Captain

JR DEACONS: Team #2

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Cathy Melendez

NURSERY HELPER: Chloe Waltz

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Edna Creech