

The Lifeline

First Christian Church
Knox, IN

January 2017

Attention Ladies!

This year we are changing our meeting format a bit. The monthly hostess will pick the day, time, and place of the meeting. (This means the meetings may not always be in the evening on the 1st Tuesday of the month.) You will be given plenty of notice, however, to plan your calendar to include each month's meetings, which we hope you will do. The monthly hostess will also prepare the meeting's devotions and program.

On the newsletter's monthly calendar these monthly meetings are listed as "Women's Fellowship" and so the invitation is this:

We welcome all women to our meetings. Join us for fellowship, inspiration, and direction from God as we continue to serve our Lord through giving of our time, talents, and services to our church, community, and world-wide missions.

Next meeting—

Date & Time: February 6th @ 1:00 p.m. (CT)

Location: Darla Cook's house @ 11 S. McGill St., Knox

Light lunch to be provided

A special guest will help in preparing Valentines for the Golden Living Center

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



The best-selling book *The Shack* by William Young which we read in our Wednesday Bible Study a while back is now a movie.

The release date will be

March 3, 2017

Cinemark @ Valparaiso

6:55 p.m.

(I suggest you read or reread this interesting book before we see the movie.)

Think about this:

We are a community.

We are not ourselves by ourselves.

We are born into communities.

We live in communities; we die in communities.

Human beings are not solitary, self-sufficient creatures.

(Eugene Peterson: *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*)

First Christian Church (Knox, Indiana) exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

To do this we will reach out with the Good News of salvation, encourage spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer, and the application of God's Word to our lives, and provide opportunities for worship and service.



Pastor Search Update:

The Pastor Search Committee thanks all of you who responded to the congregational survey. They have compiled the results and are developing a congregational profile as well as a “picture” of what you believe FCC needs/wants in their next minister.

In related matters, the Elders have developed a new job description for FCC’s minister. Also, they have approved the Budget Committee’s proposed budget for 2017 and included a breakdown of an overall compensation package to be offered to our new minister. This is all information that interested candidates will want to know and so the Search Committee will include this in information packets to be provided to them.

In the *I Will* sermon series and Bible study of last fall the apostle Peter’s challenge of 1 Peter 3:15b was put before us: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.” I’m experienced enough to know that even though both I, in the sermon related to that text, and Dan, in the Bible study related to that text, attempted to help all of us, myself included, to be more obedient to the apostle Paul’s mandate—”Do not be anxious about anything (Philippians 4:6a)—anxiousness still exists whenever the e-word “evangelism” is mentioned. I’m also experienced enough to know that sometimes “issues” may become “non-issues” simply by replacing one word with a synonym. But understand that to maintain integrity of meaning a word cannot be replaced with just any ol’ word; the replacement word must be a synonym. That is because by definition a synonym is “a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word or phrase in the same language.” In other words, semantics may be the answer to your hesitancy to be an evangelist. With that in mind consider this excerpt from a book review article in a recent issue of *Outreach Magazine*:

Evangelism. Few words bring more frustration, consternation and guilt to Christian leaders, and Christians in general. We know we should share the gospel. We want to share the gospel. But how to do so is where we run into problems. Why is it so difficult? And is there a better way than the props, programs and overly "presentationesque" ways of getting the gospel across? Happily, there is. And the answers are myriad and readily available to us all.

The one answer that I want us all to be mindful of falls in the category the reviewer of the book *Next Door As It Is in Heaven* calls “People of the Good News.” He writes:

True and complete evangelism both demonstrates and proclaims the message, ways and means of the Lord's "kingdom come, will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven." It certainly includes the good news of Christ's atoning grace, but it doesn't stop there. Evangelism happens when God's kingdom people live as heavenly citizens in earthly places. Literally, evangelism could rightly be called "goodnews-ism." An evangelist is actually a *goodnews-ist*.

The gospel of God's kingdom reign is not only good news in and of itself—it is good news because it creates a new people who are good news. They are good news in their neighborhoods, the places they work and the places they shop and frequent.

In other words, let the good life you live in Christ be the answer you give to everyone because simply put: Jesus is your hope.

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Missions Update

"Hey Chaplain Ladd this is Billy. I wanted to ask you to keep me and my family in your prayers. As I was telling you my mom recently had her fourth stroke. She is back talking now but still has a hard time pronouncing words. The Doctor put her on seven medications and therapy. I believe I caused her to stress and caused these strokes because I don't do anything to make her happy. I am repeatedly getting locked up, making her come back and forth to court, and I lied to her multiple times that I was going to change. So can you pray I change my ways, build a relationship with God, and make my momma proud. If you can do this for me I will really appreciate it".

Lee says, “I sure can't save anyone however Jesus the Christ who shed His precious blood sure can! Thank you for your prayers and gifts so that I can be a friend to so many like Billy who want a relationship with Jesus and make their momma proud!”

Just a reminder:

We regularly support 11 missions. The money that we use to support these missions is “designated money.” That means that only money that is indicated on your check or offering envelope to be used for missions funds our mission budget. No money is taken from the general church budget—no set amount, no percentage.

Your missions giving over the years has been great! If you missed the Annual Congregational Meeting last Sunday, let me tell you that because of your giving we disbursed 10,911.10 in 2016 in support of missions. Thank you for your support in our attempt to minister in and beyond the city limits of Knox, Indiana!

DECEMBER

| <u>Financial:</u> | <u>General Fund</u> | <u>Missions Fund</u> | <u>Bldg/Land Fund</u> | <u>C.O.M.E.</u> | <u>Benevolence</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Opening Balance | \$ 6,865.63 | \$ 526.01 | \$ 4,435.65 | \$ 53.12 | \$ 692.86 |
| Income | + 4,337.00 | + 821.00 | + 38.00 | + 0.00 | + 35.00 |
| Subtotal | \$ 11,202.63 | \$ 1,347.01 | \$ 4,473.65 | \$ 53.12 | \$ 692.86 |
| Expenses | — 6,843.71 | — 680.00 | — 3,000.00 | — 162.39 | — 0.00 |
| Closing Balance | \$ 4,358.92 | \$ 667.01 | \$ 1,473.65 | \$ (109.27) | \$ 692.86 |
| <u>Attendance: (avg.)</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> | | <u>Worship</u> | | |
| | 14 | | 31 | | |

MISSION



UPDATE

[Note: Since we only report on each mission semi-annually, some of the information provided may seem like “old” news, but it isn’t really.]

IGNITE CHURCH PLANTING

The second half 2016 continued to be exiting and fruitful for the church planting mission. A celebration was also in order as two of the organizations church plants have reached a milestone in their history. The North Point Christian Church in Winthrop Harbor, IL., celebrated their 25th anniversary; interestingly enough, at the end of the service (in which the pastor made an alter call, 25 people were baptized. The Living Creek Christian Church celebrated their 50th anniversary. Lance, the director of Ignite, said “it was a great reminder....we start churches so individuals can experience new life through a relationship with Jesus”.

Another church plant from last year was RiverStone Christian Church in Oregon, IL. We are happy to report that the church is doing well with about 90 parishioners attending every week. The church was lifted up when the superintendent of schools stopped by a minister’s meeting; he came asking for the churches participation in a reading mentorship program at the schools. RiverStone responded and now has 4 people working with young children each week in school. What a blessing for everyone to see God doing a special kind of work in this close contact with our local communities.

There are two church plants on the verge of launching: Nations Chapel in Carol Stream, IL., and Engage Christian Church in Oak Park, IL. Engage CC is projected to launch in March of this year. Nations Chapel should be underway as of the writing of this article. Lance has asked us for specific prayer for the church start. The Nations Chapel is the first of a kind for Ignite; the launch team is made up of people from 7 different countries. Let us be in prayer and give thanks for this multicultural facility and the work that will be done there.

As a reminder, they also have a weekly prayer time that they welcome and encourage us to join them via the telephone. They call it “Fueling the Fire Weekly Prayer Call”. The prayer call is in partnership with Global Prayer Harvest. The conference call is each Wednesday at Noon and can be accessed by dialing: 518-530-1840 and entering the meeting ID: 471 669 428 #

EXTENDED HAND MINISTRIES

The Director of this prison ministry in the Indianapolis area that we have supported for many years, Lee Ladd, doesn’t like to write, but he does manage to send us quarterly updates of his ministry. Lee would rather talk to you about what the Lord is doing through Extended Hand so feel free to call him at (317) 870-9217. From experience, you may not reach Lee on your first attempt, but if you leave a message he will call you back as soon as he can.

In his most recent update, Lee wrote: “A missions secretary wrote me a note one day saying, ‘... It must feel exhilarating to touch the hearts of those who feel lost and alone.’ She said it so well. It is exhilarating seeing the tears of joy, the hugs, and smiles of happiness! One boy was smiling when I took his confession, smiling under the water and had the same wonderful smile when he came up! Sure made me smile!”

And in an earlier letter he wrote: “It isn’t any surprise why so many behind bars are coming to Christ! For example, in just one week I baptized twelve at the Marion County Juvenile Center following our revival. Each night we averaged around eighty. Thank the Lord, we had forty fill out decision cards for Christ and twenty boys and girls who wanted to be baptized! Also, in the same week I interviewed nine who want to be baptized at the Pendleton Juvenile Center. Tomorrow (August 2, 2016) I will baptize twelve men at the Industrial Correctional Facility in Pendleton and seventeen men want to be baptized into Christ at the Heritage Trail Correctional Facility in Plainfield.

“Thank the Lord and you; I can take this message of hope to so many each week who feels so hopeless and hurting! A boy from the Juvenile Center wrote me and said,

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