

The Lifeline

First Christian Church
Knox, IN
August 2017



First Christian Church members have free access to the upcoming International Conference on Missions in Peoria, IL! To register go to theicom.org/register/, click on the Individual Registration button and use the 4th option, CODE: peoria17. Travel, lodging, and food are on you but if you have the time ICOM is well worth the trip. Go and find out what God is doing around the world through the Restoration Movement!

THANK YOU!

Although I could have easily retired quietly, your insistence of celebrating my ministry with you was greatly appreciated. The evening of August 26th was indeed uplifting. The meal was so good that I should have gone home and confessed the sin of gluttony in my evening prayer time. The cake was beautiful—at least the part that didn't have my picture on it—and it was delicious. Thank you to all who prepared and donated toward that part of the evening. And, of course, I am immensely grateful for the gifts and gift cards. The engraved crystal triangle from the congregation is beautiful—I'm still trying to find the best place to display that treasure. The wooden plaque from the CWF is also beautiful—I'm already pretty sure where it will hang. And perhaps most beautiful of all were the kind words and thoughts expressed in both spoken and written words—those have already found their place in my memory vault along with other treasured memories I have of my time with you, my Christian family, here in Knox. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

- Chuck Bachelder

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.

Earlier in the month I finished reading *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*. I know about the abhorrent practice of slavery in a very abstract sense. As far as I was aware I had never seen anything approaching that which Frederick talks about in his book. Constantly lacking in food, sleep, and proper clothes. Forced to do difficult manual labor from dawn until dusk. Whipped for any offence including not cowering enough before the “master”. Families were torn apart as a matter of practice to keep any truly strong ties from forming in the traditional fashion. If a slave were to attempt escape they would be hunted down like animals. Even making it to the North wasn’t a guarantee of safety. Slavery is the most base form of existence, forcibly becoming chattel, a mere beast. The picture Douglass gives is eye opening to say the least.

I was doing a little research outside of reading the book, and came across a heart wrenching picture from 1916, 51 years after slavery officially ended. A young black teen, was strung up in a tree. All that remained of his body was a stiff charred form after the lynch mob had burned the entire area. The photo of the poor boy was in itself horrifying, but what shook me to my core was the background of the photo. The crowd, those who actually participated in the murder and those who condoned its happening (think Saul in Acts), were all looking on smiling. The darkened, stone-like hearts of these people was outrageous as they climbed nearby trees to get a better view, all wearing their Sunday best for the show. Douglass talks about the different types of masters that he had over the years. Universally the more “religious” his master was, the more cruel and debased he acted. Despite this reality Frederick was a believer, he was keenly aware that his so-called brothers were not acting as Christ, but rather Satan. When he escaped he joined the Abolitionist Movement, where he saw examples of true Christian brotherhood between whites and blacks.

Going through this material has reminded me what the human soul can turn into. Lurking within each of us is the potential to be cruel, malicious, and morally bankrupt. Sometimes our hearts get this way under the pretense of religion. The façade looks nice in the mirror, just enough to convince the inattentive world that everything is as it should be, and in turn, the individual believes he is justified in his ways. This isn’t the most entertaining or pleasant thing to think about but it is surely necessary. Ronald Regan said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for.” He was talking about national identity and individual freedom, but I believe it applies in our faith. We are always in a battle between what is Godly and what is not. Each generation of believers must fight for what we are called to do by our King.

Whether you realize it or not, you have probably seen at least a couple of modern day slaves in your lifetime. The coercion, manipulation, and abuse is much more subtle than a field full of taskmasters and black slaves working all day. The young woman who looks to be a working girl on the corner downtown probably didn’t jump at the opportunity to sell her body. The illegal farmhand who is forced to work for basic subsistence and can’t leave for fear of legal penalties and deportation. The thousands and thousands of people around the world who are promised a better job and life by recruiters, only to have their papers stolen, becoming trapped. Our hearts are capable of these atrocities outside of a true relationship with Christ. We must guard against them by clinging to Him.

In Holy Scripture we are told that we must love our neighbor as ourselves. The issue is that we can harden ourselves to the masses of neighbors we have. It is easy to love people close to you, who share the same ideas and interests. It is also easy to think about people outside our circle as distant or unimportant. Satan can take the smallest foothold and slowly exploit it in our souls. So how do we defend against such attacks that lead to stone hearts? First, remember our sinfulness, our brokenness, our constant need for the Lord. Second, love the Lord, who has shown you unimaginable grace, love, and kindness, with all your being. Third, let that grace, love, and kindness flow freely from you to others no matter who they are or where you find them. Love them as yourself.

Let us guard against evil, and cling to what is Good. In the glorious and loving name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Patric

JULY

| <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 | \$ 4,103.84 | \$ 952.01 | \$ 1,530.87 | \$ 461.41 | \$ 803.61 |
| Income | + <u>6,175.00</u> | + <u>1,014.99</u> | + <u>15.00</u> | + <u>20.00</u> | + <u>40.00</u> |
| Subtotal | \$ 10,278.84 | \$ 1,967.00 | \$ 1,545.87 | \$ 481.41 | \$ 843.61 |
| Expenses | — <u>6,601.59</u> | — <u>1,280.00</u> | — <u>0.00</u> | — <u>173.59</u> | — <u>25.00</u> |
| Closing Balance | \$ 3,677.25 | \$ 687.00 | \$ 1,545.87 | \$ 307.82 | \$ 818.61 |
| <u>Attendance: (avg.)</u> | <u>Sunday School</u> | | <u>Worship</u> | | |
| | 20 | | 48 | | |

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.]

International Disaster Emergency Service, Inc. (I.D.E.S.)

I.D.E.S is an international disaster relief service of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. First Christian Church of Knox contributes to it as part of our monthly missions donations. I.D.E.S. has five focus areas: Evangelism, Disaster Response, Hunger Relief, Development and Sustainability, and Medical Care.

TEXAS:

With Hurricane Harvey hitting the Gulf Coast of Texas, Houston has rightly been the primary focus of many Americans. So far over the course of the storm Harvey has dumped over 50 inches of rain in some places. That enormous amount of 50 inches is the rainfall total of Chicago over a 13 to 14 month span. Some early reports are showing that up to 30% of Harris County is under water. I.D.E.S. is considering the best ways to help in areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Donations can be sent to:
I.D.E.S.
PO Box 379
Noblesville, IN 46061

INDIA & THAILAND:

This spring your love helped bring tears of joy in India. I.D.E.S. supplied food and blankets to families deemed unworthy of help by the caste system there. They were given hope in the name of Jesus. Also, torrential rains in Thailand destroyed much of their harvest, so I.D.E.S. distributed food, blankets, clothes, and medicine to these refugees, and I.D.E.S. partners shared the gospel with them as well.

ETHIOPIA:

In Ethiopia, I.D.E.S. provided three clean water wells for neighboring villages which only had contaminated water before. Each well serves 400—600 people and 5 member committees oversee the wells.

When I.D.E.S. partners with local missions in each of the countries they serve, they share messages of thankfulness. They are really thanking YOU. They are so thankful for your willingness to continue in this movement as they seek to meet physical and spiritual needs of suffering people throughout the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

- Pauline Lawhorne (August 2017)

SEPTEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Refreshments</u> | <u>Greeters</u> | <u>Nursery</u> (under 3 years) |
|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 03 | Chuck & Judy Bachelder | Dwayne Babiarz & Linda Berndt | Sarah Schwandt |
| 10 | Darla Cook | Bob & Nancy Fosnough | Amanda Watkins |
| 17 | Bob & Nancy Fosnough | Edith Gurrado & Gwen Kriss | Sarah Schwandt |
| 24 | Bob & Melanie Robertson | Pauline Lawhorne & Jerry Reese | Darla Cook |

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Children's Church</u> (3yrs. - 1st gr.) | <u>Junior Church</u> (2nd-5th gr.) | <u>Sound System</u> | <u>Meditations</u> |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 03 | | Janan Brown | Keith Schwandt | Ken Whiles |
| 10 | For the month: | Judy Bachelder | Keith Schwandt | Keith Schwandt |
| 17 | Michelle Snowdon | Sharon Wallsmith | Joey Snowdon | Dan LaFountain |
| 24 | | Dwayne Babiarz | Joey Snowdon | Bob Robertson |

“Serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2)

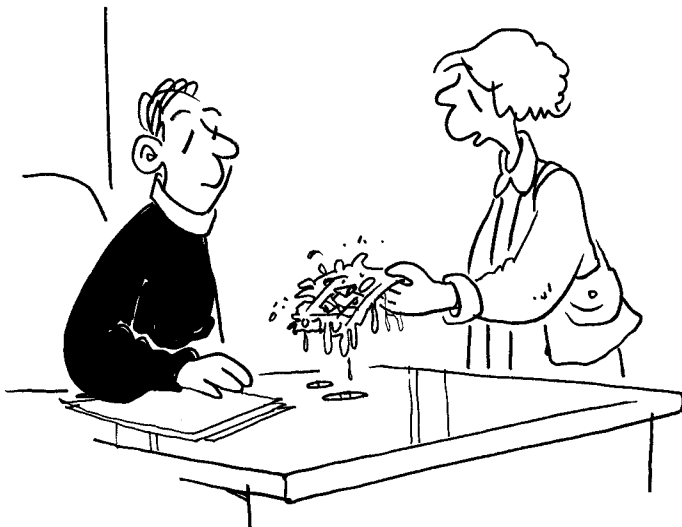
ON THE LIGHTER (?) SIDE

Was that a compliment?

After a worship service, a pastor was greeting people at the front door. A woman shook his hand vigorously and said, “That was a very helpful sermon. You ought to have your sermons put in a book.”


“Thank you!” answered the pastor. “Maybe my wife will have some of them published after I’m dead.”

“Well,” responded the elderly saint, “the sooner the better”



Campbell


“The dog ate our pledge card, but the veterinarian made him spit it out.”



As for our family...

With school starting, schedules are getting busy again. Sometimes you might feel like you're going in too many directions and forgetting what's really important. Use the key below to remind you of where your family's real focus should always be.

| | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | B | D | O | N | R |
| KEY: | E | F | H | S | T | U |
| | I | L | M | V | W | Y |



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JOSHUA 24:15B

Answer: “But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”