



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

August 2017 Volume 46 No. 8

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

Well, here we are in the middle of VBS week, and I sit here awed by all that God is doing around me. As I watch the children laughing, singing, playing and learning, I can only imagine what is going on spiritually. We have been asking the Lord to take our efforts and make eternal differences in the lives of the children and their families. We may never see it with our human eyes, but what we do know is that God is faithfully answering our prayers and that He loves each one of these kids.

What are they learning? Well today's lesson is about Gideon, and how God will take and use the most unassuming people to accomplish big things for Him! Or as the children are learning this week, we have been wonderfully created by God with a purpose. That is a message that we as adults need to be convinced of too. Satan has a way of lying to us and convincing us that either it is too late or that we have nothing to offer. The truth is that it is never too late, and God created us just the way that He wanted in order to accomplish His purpose for our lives. We just need to be willing and trust Him!

So how about us? Are we looking for ways for God to use us on a daily basis? Do we really expect Him to give us opportunities to speak or deliver His love into the lives of lost and hurting people who are desperately looking for answers? Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." Jn. 4:35.

We don't know what God is doing in the hearts and lives of the people who He brings across our path in an ordinary day. But we are given unique opportunities designed by Him if we are aware of the harvest that is ripe and ready. Let's not miss our chance when it is given to us! And this week we have been given some obvious opportunities with children that God has been preparing for this time!

Thank you to all of you! Thank you for serving! Thank you for loving! Thank you for giving! Thank you for making this awesome life changing, life giving opportunity to the children! Well done Christ Church!

THE FORGOTTEN WAY

We are continuing our journey in adult Sunday School into what it really means that we are children of the Most High God, seated in heavenly places with Him, and walking in the light of His love. So much of how we respond to our earthly experiences is based on what we see and fear of what that will mean in the future. To know the truth about who we are in Christ, to understand the extent of the love of God for us, and to keep our eyes set on the heavenly things will remove the fear and anxiety that the enemy loves to see us struggle with.

Come join us as we ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow closer to Jesus and to walk more confidently in the light of His love!

BLESSINGS FOR BRIGHTMOOR REMADE!

This year the Lord lead us to restructure our Blessings for Brightmoor Outreach. As you know, in the past we partnered with a church in Brightmoor that was located on the corner of Fenkell and Blackstone. They graciously allowed us to use their location as the site for us to put up our tent and stage a community day of blessing. We delivered all the food that we normally would distribute at outreach right to the site. We then distributed the food, gave away backpacks and hygiene products, and originally gave away appliances. We also had prayer teams who met with the recipients and took their needs directly to God's throne of grace!

This year however, the Lord lead us to bless the community by staging a workday. What a blessing that turned out to be! We had about 50 people who turned out to work and in the period of less than 2 hours we were able to make a tremendous difference in the property surrounding Brian and Wanda's house. Those who normally attend our Saturday Bible study showed up with their work gloves and tools and went to town!

Following our work, we shared lunch together that was delivered right to the site and then distributed our food from there too. Everyone was excited about what had been accomplished and it was such a joy to work side by side with those who we have only known as attendees at Saturday morning Bible study/outreach. A new level of relationship was reached and the people of the community saw the love of Christ in action in a very tangible way.

In fact, the day after the event I went back to take some pictures and a group of men were standing across the street admiring the difference that we had made. One of the men owns several properties on that street and tries so hard to maintain them and his community. He shared with me what a blessing it was to see so many people

caring for his neighborhood! Thanks to everyone who participated in any way in the project! Oh, and by the way we plan to do it again Saturday, Sept. 16th. We hope that you can join us!

MEN'S SOFTBALL UPDATE

Well the men's softball team has 3 wins under our belt and feel pretty good about that! Thank you to the fans who have come out and cheered us on this year. Win or lose, we have a good time, get to make new friends with those who come and play on our team, and we have the opportunity to show our opponents what the love of Christ looks like on the softball field.

The older I get the more I appreciate God's hand of protection over us keeping us from injury, His opening of doors to build new relationships, and the love of people who come out and show us support. If you would like to be a part of the fun, the remainder of the schedule can be found on the calendar.

BACKPACKS

This year we will again be donating backpacks to Westside Christian Academy. During the month of August, we will be collecting #2 pencils and both the college and wide ruled notebook paper. If you would like to donate money towards the backpacks, please write backpacks and the amount you are giving on your envelope. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

AUGUST SABBATH REST

A few years ago, the Lord led us to take August as a time to scale back the work of the ministries to give ourselves a time for rest and prayer.

The reason for doing this was not simply to get a break but rather to focus some of our time asking the Lord what He might have in store for us as we return in September. Top this, I would like to encourage you to listen to the Lord's leading. Expect Him to give ideas and direction for where He wants your ministry to go. I am also praying that God will refresh us and re-energize us to serve Him with great joy and strength!

August is also a month that we encourage our care groups to get together for a summer picnic so expect to hear from your care group leaders regarding a date!

CHURCH PICNIC AT HANDY PARK

Mark your calendars and remember the new location! This year's worship/picnic in the park will be held at Handy (Capitol) Park on Sunday, September 10th. As you might remember, Westernview Neighborhood Association had asked us to partner with them several years ago to organize a picnic for the community. At that time, we decided to move our worship/picnic to Phoenix park and invite the community to be a part of it. Unfortunately, Westernview was disappointed by the turnout from the neighborhood and decided not to participate this year. Since Handy Park has nicer facilities we decided to take our picnic back there.

Our worship will begin at 10:30am at the park and we will not have Sunday School that day. More information will be shared as the day approaches.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S CORNER

Our Wednesday Night Summer Activities continue in August. Students going into kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to attend. The events will be from 6pm until 8pm. There will be food provided, so come hungry! Contact Miss Stephanie or the church if a ride is needed.

August 2nd Scavenger Hunt Night
August 16th Messy Game Night

NURSERY NEEDS

We are still in need of someone or someone's to take the lead in caring for our nursery. Our youngest members deserve a first-class environment to be cared for in. Would you consider helping with this responsibility? For more details on what is needed see Barb Christopherson.