



# CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## September 2017 Volume 46 No. 9

### **FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:**

What is it that you find consuming your life? For some of us it might be relationships. That can mean living life to please others, or desiring the attention of someone, or believing that without certain people being part of our lives life would stink. Some of us are consumed by reaching our goals. That can be financially or whatever we perceive the "good life" to be. For some of us life is simply about survival, keeping up with the responsibilities that seem beyond our capacity, or just getting through another day.

Regularly we need to refocus and that is where God's Word is needed. One of those refocusing verses for me is found in 1 Peter 3:18 where it states:

"Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."

The gospel is the enjoyment of fellowship with God himself. This is clear in the simple phrase "that he might bring us to God." All the other gifts of the gospel exist to make this one possible.

- We are forgiven so that our guilt does not keep us away from God.
- We are justified so that our condemnation does not keep us from God.
- We are given eternal life now, with new bodies in the resurrection, so that we have the capacities for enjoying God to the fullest.

We need to ask ourselves, "Why do I want to be forgiven?" and "Why do I want to be justified?" and "Why do I want eternal life?" Is it simply to escape the wrath of God or is it because I genuinely want a relationship with Him and want to enjoy Him?

The gospel-love God gives is ultimately the gift of himself. This is what we were made for. This is what we

lost in our sin. This is what Christ came to restore. As the Psalmist wrote in Ps. 16:11:

"In your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

I can't speak for you, but I know that I need to regularly be reminded that my joy is found in my relationship with my creator. He created us for that purpose and when we look to anything else to fulfill that purpose we will walk away empty and disappointed.

### **TEARS OF JOY AND SORROW**

It's hard to describe the feelings that are flowing right now. It won't be the same without Lew in the front row giving himself completely in worship and taking notes about everything that is taught on. We are going to miss him! And I can only imagine that Jackie is playing her tambourine as she worships at the feet of Jesus. We are going to miss her too! But heaven has just received two souls who love their Savior and weren't ashamed to declare it here on earth!

As much as it hurts to have them gone, we rejoice with them for their new home, their real home. They have finished the race and are enjoying the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### **PRAYER**

We encourage you to join us for Adult Sunday School as we move into a study on the gift and discipline of prayer in the Christian life. When we have a direct line to the creator of the universe and have been encouraged by Him to use it, why wouldn't we? Join us as we look at what God tells us about this tremendous opportunity. We meet every Sunday at 9am.

### **MEN'S SOFTBALL UPDATE**

Congratulations to the men's softball team on having the best record in the history of Christ Church softball. We finished in the top four of the league which qualified us for the playoffs! In the playoffs, we gave the number one team in the league a run for their money, losing to them by only one run! Thanks to Arden for managing the team this year and doing such a great job! Thanks to all who came out and supported us through the good and the bad.

Our hope is that the love of Christ is seen in us even on the softball diamond, that He is glorified and that others are drawn to Him! That is what makes for a truly successful season!

### **BACKPACKS**

Once again, this year a generous local attorney made sure that the children of Detroit were all provided with backpacks filled with school supplies to begin the school year. Unfortunately, that offer was extended only to the children in the public schools. We however, had the opportunity to make sure that the students of Westside Christian Academy were provided for too!

Thank you to everyone who helped provide for the 143 backpacks that we were able to deliver before the school year began. Special thanks to Barb Christopherson and Stephanie Morris who headed up the project and delivered them to Westside. We also want to thank all the Sunday School children who participated by putting the backpacks together! We love the opportunity to support Westside, where "Jesus and education are offered daily."

### **WORSHIP AT HANDY PARK**

A number of years ago Westernview Neighborhood Association approached us about partnering with them to provide a picnic for the community. At that time, we decided to move our annual worship at the park/church picnic from Handy Park, which has nicer facilities, to Phoenix Park which is right in our neighborhood. Since that time Westernview Association has decided not to do a picnic and we have decided to move ours back to Handy Park this year.

Sunday, September 10, we will begin our worship at 10:30am at the park followed by our picnic. Please bring a dish to pass. Hot dogs and bottled water will be provided.

The park is located at Capitol and Hemingway. Capitol is at the light on Beech Daly between 96 and Plymouth Rd, at the Post Office. Head west on Capitol until it ends and you are at the park!

There will be no Sunday School on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **TORAH STUDY COMING TO AN END**

I have heard from those who were involved in the Torah study what a blessing it has been! It has been quite a commitment for those who were involved on both Sunday mornings and Tuesday nights. The Sunday morning class is completed and Tuesday nights have two more to go.

Special thanks to Yvonne Moore for sharing her teaching gift and her passion with us. We really appreciate your dedication and enthusiasm.

### **LIFE CHAIN – PROLIFE PRAYER EVENT**

Mark your calendars for this year's LIFE CHAIN. As always, this prayer event will fall on the first Sunday in October beginning at 2:30pm. More information will follow.

### **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.

### **WELLSPRING'S 31<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND OPEN HOUSE**

You are invited to attend this celebration on Saturday, September 30 from 2:30-6:30pm at Wellspring Grounds, 16742 Lamphere, Detroit, MI 48219

2:00-3:15 Meet and Greet, Tours  
3:30-4:30 Program and Dedication  
4:45-6:30 Dinner, Fellowship Tours

Please RSVP by September 7, 2017 with Phyllis Lee 313-255-9085 or [phyllislee@wellspringdetroit.org](mailto:phyllislee@wellspringdetroit.org)