



## CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

### March 2018 Volume 47 No. 03

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

*“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.” Heb. 11:17*

I recently spoke with a young man who explained to me a difficult decision that he had made. He had been feeling that God was calling him to move on to a new position to be able to serve Him better, but he didn't know where that was. He was employed at a stable job, in ministry, and had security there, which was important since he has a wife and two small children. However, he had felt this urge for more than a year now but wasn't sure what God wanted him to do. He passed on a couple of opportunities that had been offered to him because he didn't feel that it was God's direction for him. But then it happened, God spoke. After a time of wrestling, he picked up his family, moved them to a small mobile home out in the country, and took a job, of all things, installing and cleaning septic tanks. How could that be God's will for someone? It sure doesn't measure up to the definition of “success” or “purpose” that the world would give us. But could it be God's will and serve a bigger “kingdom” purpose? It made me think of Abraham and what God had asked of him, obedience. I had to ask myself this question, “Am I seeking to do God's will to the extent that if what He asked me to do made no sense, would I do it?” Then I recently read the following:

*For many of you right now – and for others of you the time is coming – obedience feels like the end of a dream. You feel that if you do what the word of God is calling you to do, it will make you miserable and that there is no way that God could turn it all for good.*

*Perhaps the command or call of God you hear just now is to stay married or stay single, to stay in that job or leave that job, to get baptized, to speak up at work about Christ, to refuse to compromise your standards of*

*of honesty, to confront a person in sin, to venture a new vocation, to be a missionary. And as you see it in your limited mind, the prospect of doing this is terrible – it's like the loss of Isaac, the only son who can be an heir.*

*You have considered every human angle, and it is impossible that it could turn out well.*

*Now you know what it was like for Abraham. This story is in the Bible for you.*

*Do you desire God and his way and his promises more than anything, and do you believe that he can and will honor your faith and obedience by being unashamed to call himself your God, and to use all his wisdom and power and love to turn the path of obedience into the path of life and joy?*

*That is the crisis you face now: Do you desire him? Will you trust him? The word of God to you is: God is worthy, and God is able.*

From “The Hope of Exiles on the Earth” by John Piper

The challenging line in that chapter for me was “Do you desire God and his way and his promises more than anything?” I want to, I really do, but am I there yet? And if I do, won't that be demonstrated through obedience? How about you? And is God asking you to do something that doesn't make sense? He wants us to be obedient and demonstrate our trust in Him. We can ask Him “why?” but don't expect Him to reveal that to us yet. Our first step needs to be obedience based on trust! Maybe then we will find out why.

#### **OHIO YOUTH FOR CHRIST WORK PROJECT**

Our worksites have been selected and the crews are being formulated for their mission trip here to Detroit on Mar. 8-12. We will be hosting the team for dinner here at Christ Church on Friday Mar. 9. If you would like to help serve/clean up, please see either Sandy Branstrom or Debi White.

### **AAA PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER BABY BOTTLES**

Hopefully you have been filling your baby bottles with your pocket change. They are due back now. Please bring them to church and give them to Michele or just leave them on the table at the front of the church with the offering plates. We will want to record that you have returned them so please let Michele know either way. Thank you and please keep AAA Pregnancy Resource Center in your prayers for the incredibly important ministry that they perform!

### **“THE LIFE WE LONG TO LIVE”**

This is the title of this year’s Soup Supper/Lenten Study presented by Tom Nelson. We hope that you will come and be strengthened, encouraged, and challenged by the truth of God’s Word with us.

At the Lenten series we will have the opportunity to share a meal together, receive a teaching, then break into our care groups to explore what we have heard and pray together. Our studies will be on Thursday nights beginning with soup at 6pm and concluding by 8pm.

The care groups will provide the soup suppers as follows:

Feb. 22 – Chosen, Mar. 1 – Ambassadors, Mar. 8 – Elders & wives, Mar. 15 – Redeemed Mar. 22 – Victorious, Mar. 29 - TBD

### **SNOW PLOW SCHEDULE**

Marcus Campbell/Dick C. 12:00pm  
February 26 thru 12:00pm March 7

Mike Boyle/Bill Peter  
12:00pm March 7 thru 12:00pm December 25

### **CHILDREN’S ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARTY**

March 17<sup>th</sup> the Children’s Ministry is having their March party. This time it is St. Patrick’s Day themed, so come wearing as much green as possible. The party will be from 1-4pm and lunch will be provided. Please contact Miss Stephanie if a ride is needed.

### **SUB SANDWICHES THIS SUNDAY**

This Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> the children’s ministry is having their annual sub sale. The subs are \$6, and all of the money goes to help the students go on upcoming trips. Please call or text Miss Stephanie at (586)719-9648 to order a sub.

### **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.

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mark your calendars for this year’s VBS! The dates will be July 23-27, 2018. Thank you!

**BAIR LAKE MEN'S RETREAT**

Men, mark your calendars. The annual men's retreat at Bair Lake will be April 27-29, 2018.