

THE NEWSLETTER

UP

What's UP DCC?

Haven't we had a great summer? Many thanks to the talented folks who shared their music with us, especially Emily Williams who filled in for Xiaoming while he was in China visiting his family. Emily is a wonderful musician and composer.

We also had the honor of sharing communion prayers with our two newest elders, Margaret Adamson and Jacob Vangen.

Thanks also to Linda Ashbrook, who has agreed to arrange our Worship Leaders this year.

As I join in the planning of the UP portion of our lives, I would like to help bring people in closer relationship to God, not only on Sunday morning, but every day- to join the secular with the sacred. The Praise Team has some song medleys that bring secular songs into worship. By changing a few words, these songs become love songs to the Savior.

Let me know which parts of the service touch you, inspire you to be closer in relationship with Jesus.

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, He reigns!
Nancy Carey, UP Co chair

IN

A new small group will be starting for **MEN THIS SATURDAY**, Sept. 11th at 9am at First Watch on Kemper Road (in the strip mall west of Tri-County Mall). Besides relationship building, this group will focus on outreach (we will be looking at the possibility of working with Habitat on a new build they will be starting in Middletown). There is a sign-up sheet on the office window. So far 5 men have signed up for the small group. There are others who are planning on being a part of the group, but they can't be there on Sat. I will make sure we have a few extra places for those who haven't signed up, yet. (Just so you know, we don't anticipate First Watch being our permanent home for the group. If we do participate in the Middletown Habitat build, we will probably want to move our meeting place further north.)

OUT

Since my last article, we've had the successful garage sale to raise money for St. Raphael's, we've served at Chosen, and we've begun planning for our next mission trip. The trip will be November 13th through the 20th. Pastor John and Jim Rivers will co-lead this Ohio Region-wide trip to West Side Mission. There is a registration fee of \$125, which is due by October 15. Please see Pastor John if you are interested. If you talk to any of the folks who went on our last mission trip to New Orleans, you will learn what a life-changing experience that was. What a wonderful way to reach out to those truly in need.

One aspect of outreach we sometimes forget is inviting others to Christ. Think of life as being in choppy waters on the high sea. Following Christ is akin to finding a life raft and climbing on. It is important to find Christ in our lives through prayer, meditation and worship. However, one of the questions God will ask us when we stand before him on judgment day is, "Did you bring anybody with you? Where are your brothers and sisters?" Don't let your answer be, "Oh, Jesus, it was hard enough to bring myself." We have to realize that we are people on a life raft and our job is not to paddle away to safety, but to pull other people into the boat, also. As we commit our lives to Christ and strive to find ways to help our neighbors, don't let us forget, as we establish relationships with folks, to let them know how much Christ has impacted our own lives and encourage others to follow that path.

Misc. News

CONGRATS! . . . Myrna Caudill's novel, "Love Triumphs!", has received a silver award in the Romance/Suspense genre from Readers Favorite contest. She will be receiving a roll of 500 high quality award stickers to place on the front cover of "Love Triumphs!". If you purchased one, I will be happy to give you a sticker.

On October 1st the announcement of this award will be announced by "Readers Favorite" through a premium press release which will be available to 250,000 subscribers. This release will also be sent to more than 35,000 opt-in journalists including the Associated Press and top US newspapers like USA Today, as well as search engines like Yahoo and Google. This release will remain online, indefinitely, continually advertising her book.

DEACON SERVING SCHEDULE FOR SEPT: Phyllis Hurst, Dave Adamson, Emily Williams, Andrew Williams, Jan Richardson, Jill White

MEN'S FALL RETREAT . . . The Ohio Men's Fall Retreat will be held at Camp Christian the weekend of September 17-19th. The event begins at 7:30pm on Friday evening. The registration forms are on the stand where you get the bulletin.

THE NEXT MISSION TRIP . . . to New Orleans will be Nov. 13-20th. Pastor John and Jim Rivers will co-lead this Ohio Region-wide trip to West Side Mission. There is a registration fee for this trip of \$125, which is due by Oct. 15th. If you are interested in going on this trip, see with Pastor John.



AS I SEE IT

If you have school aged children living in your home, you know that life is about to settle down into a routine. Early morning alarms, getting out of the house in time to catch the bus, school events, and those regular conversations, “How was school today?” “Good.” “What did you learn today?” (Followed by silence and then the highlighted activity of the day, not an answer to the learning question.) “Do you have any homework?” (And the fear that you do and that it will be beyond the parents ability to discern the answer. I think that started back when they were teaching the “New Math.”)

Here at DCC, as I writing this note, the preschool children have arrived for their first day. I wish you could see their faces. Their faces are saying, “What in the world have you gotten me into?” They, for the most part, have moved out of their comfort zones.

You can relate to that, can't you? When was the last time God called you out of your comfort zone. It probably resulted in a greater blessing than you could imagine.

We should be praying for the students, teachers, bus drivers, parents, and administrators. May God's moving them out of their comfort zones bring to them a greater blessing than they could ever imagine.

Until next month,



Freddy

JOHN'S JOTS

John 20:21, “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’” These are the words of Jesus as he commissions his followers post resurrection. You can see from him words that we are a sent people.

Ironically, that almost didn't happen. If it weren't for persecution, the early church would have been no more than a branch of Judaism. But when they were “kicked out of” the temple they were forced to follow the Holy Spirit in ways they would have never dreamed possible. Folks in the early church were known as the people of The Way. They always seemed to be carrying the gospel of God's unconditional love and grace to more and more places and more and more people.

Ironically, the same thing has been happening in Christianity for quite a number of years now. The Church, for a long time now, has thought of itself as the place where folks come to find God (just like the folks in the temple thought of the temple).

But a movement has been happening in the body of Christ for several decades. This movement started in the United Kingdom in the 70's and has spread worldwide. This movement looks at the body of Christ as missional communities. A missional community is a group of folks, about the size of an extended family, who seek to reflect the gospel to their neighborhoods.

Two of the leaders of the missional church or the missional community are Alan Roxburgh and M. Scott Boren (others are Mike Breen [both here in the US and in Europe] and Alan Hirsch) who have written an introductory book about what is meant to be a missional community. Amazingly, what has been happening is that around the world there are church leaders of different backgrounds who are coming to the same conclusion: God is doing something new in the world through missional churches/communities.

Roxburgh and Boren have written about what a missional community is all about. Here is an excerpt from their book: "A few years ago, a medium, successful attractional church (my note: an attractional church is one that tries through all sorts of programs to attract folks to their church) in Anchorage, Alaska, realized that while they were one of the more effective churches in town, they were not doing what God had called them to do. They wanted more than more noses to count on Sundays. They entered a time of reflection and research, seeking to discern what they might do. The result was a season of transition, involving and becoming aware of their own stories and the people of their communities. This created space for people to evaluate what was going on in their church, and from this they began experiments where they engaged their communities. Over time, this process led the church to commit itself to a new path.

"In one experiment a group was practicing hospitality. (my note: this involved inviting neighbors to a small group in their home that met around a common meal.) As they related to people in their neighborhoods, some got to know a single mom who had all kinds of questions about life, her struggles as a parent, and what God had to do with the tough knocks she had experienced. She began to join people in the group for meals on a regular basis, becoming part of the rhythm of their lives. As conversations over meals began to reshape her imagination, she discovered a community of people who cared for her. In time she embraced Jesus. But something started to happen to the group as well. They were learning that God was up to and involved in the lives of a lot of people in their neighborhood even if these people didn't go to church or call themselves Christians. What they were discovering was that by creating a table (food and conversation) and making it a safe space (not about manipulating or getting them to become something), they became aware of a dynamic of the Spirit none of them had ever imagined. It was amazing what was happening in the neighborhood. They had always been so busy trying to get people to go to church that they had never had their eyes opened to what God was up to in the most unlikely people. As the months went by they began to sense a new way of being God's people out in the neighborhood.

"This is a story of missional engagement. It illustrates something more than personal salvation or church attendance. This woman entered a community of Christians struggling to become away of what was going on in their own world."

We sought to become a simple church in order to free ourselves to make an impact on our neighborhoods and our world. Our small groups can become missional communities that change lives. Isn't that what God has called us to do?
Shalom, Pastor John

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lois Johnson – Shut In

Mitchell and Helen Deaton – deal with health issues

Kim Vangen – rehabing new hip

Vada Lee Accirido – Lois Johnson's sister in law, has cancer

Hershel Estridge – Lois Johnson's cousin, dealing with health issues

Lynn and Tad Adam's Grandmother – ill at her home

Ron Hurst – dealing with health issues

Chosen – pray for the will of God in the lives of the guests and staff.

Pray for those whose lives have been affected by job loss and financial uncertainty

Gene Thomas – dealing with chemo and radiation treatments

Liz Longard – dealing with health issues

The Chester Parker Family – Chester was a friend of the Longard's who recently passed away.

Brian Druley's Father – dealing with chemo for colon cancer

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Don Gross	7
Mary Longard	9
Gabby Smith	11
Jana Brown	13
John Williams	13
Brian Druley	18
Leland Houchell	18
Logan Brown	26



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