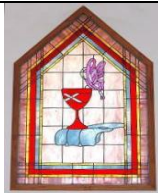


The Gatepost



A Publication of Gateway Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, 3600 West Republic Road, Springfield, MO,
Vol: 20, Nr 1, January 2012

Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity: “We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord’s table, as God has welcomed us.”

Our Church Mission: Together we seek to grow in faith, serve others, share and experience the joy of God’s love.

Church Officers: Council Moderator – Steve Boling (Elder); Vice Moderator – Pam Harmon (Deacon); Ty Heslep (Deacon); David Moore (Deacon); Bill Nichols (Pastor)

Life of Our Church:

Church School – Sunday 9:00 AM
Worship Service – Sunday 10:00 AM
Focused Worship Service – 1:00 PM
Nursery care is available each Sunday during the
Worship Service
Bible Study – Wednesday 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Worship Team Music Practice – Wednesday
7:00 PM
Men’s Breakfast First Saturday – 6:45 AM
Pastor's Coffee Fellowship – First and Third
Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM
Congregation Fellowship Meal – Third Sunday
of each month after worship.
Church office is closed each Friday
Church Telephone is (417) 889-9393
www.gatewaycc.us

Events at Gateway:

Council Meeting: Gateway’s church council meeting Sunday, January 8th immediately following worship services.

Council Secretary Needed: We are in need of someone to step up and serve as the council secretary. Please contact Steve Boling,

Moderator, or Pastor Nichols for details concerning the job. This would be an appointed position until next year’s elections.

Fellowship Night: January 12th: Come kick-off the New Year with a night of fellowship and fun.

Gateway to help the Council of Churches with homeless count on Wednesday, January 25th: Gateway has been asked by Romona Baker at the Council of Churches to organize breakfast for their homeless count which will take place at the Salvation Army facilities on Wednesday, January 25th. I need a few volunteers to help with this outreach ministry. We have been tasked with contacting companies and businesses to request items be donated for this breakfast and to prepare the donated items for consumption. I have the information from those who did this last time concerning contacts and amount of supplies needed. We will also need volunteers to help pick up the prepared items and to help serve them on the morning of the 25th of January. Please contact Pastor Nichols if you have time to make some phone calls, or if you would be willing to help serve on the day of the event.

Men's Breakfast: Our first men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 7th at the Cedar's Restaurant on West Bypass, just north of Chestnut Expressway. We will gather at 6:45AM and be finished before 8:00AM. Pastor Nichols will be speaking about the differences in the way men and women communicate. Cedar's has breakfast specials that are in the \$4 - \$5 dollar price range, and you get a large homemade style breakfast for your money. Please plan to join us and feel free to invite one of your friends!

Gateway Ministries Handbook: We have finished compiling our handbook of ministries that we do at Gateway Christian Church and copies are now available to be picked up at the church. Please pick one up and review it and if you see a ministry that you would like to be a part of, get in touch with the contact person listed or contact the church office.

How Can You Serve Christ and His Church at Gateway? If you get right down to the nitty-gritty of the gospel, we were saved to serve. The question many of us often wonder is what can I do? Believe me when I say that there are a multitude of ministries, both at the church and in our community that you are capable of doing. I'm not going to ask you to do them for me. I'm not even going to ask you to do them for our church. I'm going to ask you to do them for God. I'm working on, and will soon complete a list of all the different ministries that are available for you to participate in at Gateway. In addition to that, the council of churches is asking for churches to send volunteers just one day a month to help out with various ministries. There are other opportunities available that you can participate in our community in the name of Jesus as a representative of Gateway Christian Church. Don't wait to be asked, volunteer!

Congratulations: To Tammy and Terrell Coleman on the birth of their baby girl, Camryn Mae. Camryn was born on December 8th and weighted 7lbs 2.5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations also to first time grandparents, Mel and Kathy Picraux!

Focused Worship Coming to Gateway!

On Sunday, January 8th we will be starting a new service called Focused Worship. This service will begin at 1:00PM and end around 1:45PM. This service will focus on three elements of worship which will be praise through contemporary music, God's word in a short focused message and introspection through prayer and meditation with communion. Our goal is to reach people who, 1. Like to sleep in on Sunday mornings. 2. Who have become disenchanted with traditional worship. 3. Who really want a focused worship experience. Please be in prayer that this new service will meet a need in our community that is not being met through the traditional worship experience in today's church.

Constitution and by-laws Committee

Meeting: The committee that has been working on revising our constitution and by-laws meets every other Monday. Work is just about done. The proposed revisions to be presented to the council for approval shortly after the first of the year.

Nursery Help Needed: If we are going to keep the young families that visit Gateway, it is essential that we have a staffed nursery available each week, even if a visiting family doesn't use it the first time or two that they attend. If you could give one Sunday per month to serve in the nursery, please let us know

Outreach Events: Gateway’s outreach event for this year will be the sponsorship of Isabel’s House. Isabel’s house is a 24/7 crisis nursery for children ages birth to 12 years old. A list of needs will be posted on the bulletin board. Items collected will be delivered on a quarterly basis. Secondly we’ll be participating in Crosslines’ food distribution. We need six volunteers to help distribute food to needy families on January 31st.

Friends with Special Events:

Birthdays:

- January 17th, Aline Balcom, Regina O’Haro & Madison Schuh
- January 20th, Cindy Heslep and Anita Moore
- January 26th, Gloria Mattson
- January 27th, Linda Turk
- January 28th, Pam Hershey & Kathy Picraux
- January 31st, Jennie Turner

Prayer Concerns:



Kim Brueggemann, eye issues; Tammy Coleman, baby; Johnny Campbell family, death; Joyce Deeds, cancer; Rob Frederick, health issues; Tom Gilge (friend of the Moore's) neurological issue; Sue Harper, on hospice; Julie Horner, Health; Robert Howard, surgery; Traci Jewell, cancer; Nelda Johnson, surgery; Vickie Kassebram, blood clot in lung; Jim Lutter, cancer; Kathy Malone, cardiac issues; Marie, cancer; Katie Mayberry, cancer; Wayne Mowery back surgery; Kathy Picraux, surgery; Carol Ryan, pulmonary issues; Robert Royal (Luther’s brother-in-law), pneumonia; Bill Sheppard, healing; Greg Shirk, child custody issues.

Pray for Blessings on: New Beginnings Program; Gateway’s growth; our world, national,

state, and local leaders; Economic recovery; military members, families and friends.

If you, a family member or an acquaintance enters the hospital, is admitted to a nursing home or becomes home-bound and would like a visit from the pastor or a member of our visitation ministry; please notify the office, Pastor Bill or Luther Young directly.

Visitation ministry members are available to provide communion to anyone who requests. Help provide comfort and joy by visiting our home-bound and sick. Please help keep this list current by calling the office of any needed additions, changes or deletions.

Offering for November:

November 6 th	\$1,116.00
November 13 th	588.75
November 20 th	1,495.00
November 27 th	998.00

Total: \$4,187.75

Attendance for November:

November 6 th	40
November 13 th	37
November 20 th	49
November 27 th	58

Average: 46

Serving at the Table:

January 1 st	Steve Boling
January 8 th	Bill Nichols
January 15 th	Luther Young
January 22 nd	Steve Boling
January 29 th	Bill Nichols or Luther Young



Scripture Reading:

January 1 st	Renee Rasco
January 8 th	John O'Haro
January 15 th	Art Turner
January 22 nd	Kim Brueggemann
January 29 th	_____

Greeters:

January 1 st	Linda and Rick Turk
January 8 th	Kathy and Mel Picraux
January 15 th	Regina and John O'Haro
January 22 nd	Winnie Young
January 29 th	Vivian Brueggemann



Stewardship Message:

January 1 st	Bill Nichols
January 8 th	Steve Boling
January 15 th	David Moore
January 22 nd	Bill Nichols
January 29 th	Steve Boling

Children's Message:

January 1 st	Michelle Heslep
January 8 th	Luther Young
January 15 th	Renee Rasco
January 22 nd	Dottie Meadows
January 29 th	_____

Nursery Attendants:

January 1 st	Patsy Petersen
January 8 th	Renee Rasco
January 15 th	Michelle Heslep
January 22 nd	_____
January 29 th	_____

If you would like to volunteer to work in the nursery, please see Steve Boling or Pastor Bill Nichols. Background screening is done on any volunteer who works with our children.

Lectionary for January:

January 1st Liturgical Color: White

Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7, or Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

January 8th Liturgical Color: Green

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 15th Liturgical Color: Green

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 22nd Liturgical Color: Green

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 29th Liturgical Color: Green

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

The Pastor's Voice:

Happy New Year! What an exciting time to be involved in ministry on behalf of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. As we begin 2012 we do so with great anticipation that God is going to do a great work in our community and our church. One of the thoughts that came out our New Beginnings study this past summer is our need to connect with our community. In an effort to do so, we have become more involved with the Council of Churches in their ministries of helping others. We have also become more involved in local missions, especially Isabel's House and a locally based mission with ministries in Nicaragua, the Rainbow Network.

We continue to meet to discuss the ministry direction of Gateway Christian church and are exploring the possibility of constructing an addition to the church to help accomplish the work we want to do in our community. In an effort to reach more people with God's message we are starting a new worship service on January 8th at 1:00 PM. It will be non-traditional, with a focus on praise, God's Word and introspection through meditation and prayer. The service will be contemporary, casual and only 45 minutes in length.

In the near future we intend to do a house to house survey of the local community to determine how the church can more effectively minister to our neighbors.

Another new ministry which we are beginning on Saturday, January 7th is a monthly men's breakfast. The first meeting will be at 6:45 AM at Cedar's on West By-Pass. It will last about an hour and will include a short devotion on the different ways men and women communicate! Guys, you won't want to miss this one!

Typically, people like to make resolutions for the New Year. I have gotten out of that habit, but before you and God, I resolve to get in better physical condition in 2012. Yes, that includes going to the gym on a more regular basis. I would like to challenge each of you to get in better spiritual condition in 2012 by resolving to do three things in particular: Pray, Read your Bible, and Go to church on a regular basis. Let's hold each other accountable in 2012 and get in better physical and spiritual condition!

Blessings in 2012!

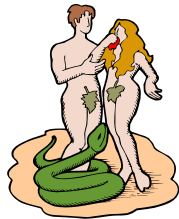
Pastor Bill

Introspections by Luther:

Coincidence: An accidental and remarkable occurrence of events, ideas, etc. At the same time, in a way that sometimes suggests a causal relationship. That's a dictionary definition of coincidence. The Thesaurus lists several words as synonyms, such as: accident, chance, luck, fluke, twist of fate, quirk, or happenstance. Recently an acquaintance asked a question, "Is it a coincidence or the hand of God when events seem to fall into place?" Ah, now there is the 64 thousand dollar question. Oh, I know, many of you are much too young to remember that television show. As a bit of history, in the 50s there was a television show entitled The 64 Thousand Dollar Question. Contestants answered questions for which they received increasing amounts of money for their correct answers. Top prize was \$64,000.00. Okay, back to the question, is it coincidence or the hand of God?

This question leads to a much bigger question: Does God actively play a role in our day to day lives? To coin a phrase frequently used by a well know television personality, "What say Is it mere coincidence that someone facing the loss of a job held for several years is suddenly offered another job more to that persons liking? Is it a coincidence that when we are looking for something and can't find exactly what you want and then "ta-da" there it is, just exactly what

we've been looking for? Is it a coincidence that a person goes into an education program to obtain a degree in Special Education, and eventually obtains a doctorate in Special Education then be blessed with a child with special needs? Each of these instances could simply be chalked-up as mere coincidences or explained away any number of ways. However, the irony of such events cannot be overlooked. Rephrasing the question at the opening of this paragraph, Does God play a role in our lives? We have just celebrated one enormous example of the role of God in the lives of man, the birth of the Savior of mankind, Jesus the Christ. The scriptures abound with accounts of God's intervention in the history of humankind. As far back as the exit of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden we read in the book of Genesis, chapter 3 verse 15 of God's plan to reconcile us to Him. He tells the serpent (Satan),



“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike at his heel.”

The phrase *you will strike at his heel* refers to Satan's repeated attempts to defeat Christ during His life on earth. ***He will crush your head*** foreshadows Satan's defeat when Christ rose from the dead.

As Christians we are taught to believe God knows all. To have faith God will provide what we need. And everything will happen in its own time according to God's plan. If this is so, does it mean everything we do is according to God's plan and we have little if any involvement? Hardly, God gave us “free will.” We are free to choose our courses of action and the directions we take; however, God frequently “nudges” us in the way He wishes us to go. As we enter 2012 we will be presented with even more choices and opportunities. Will our choice and direction be coincidence or the hand of God?