

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

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"I'd like to ask you to tell about your 40+ year ministry at Chatham in five minutes." I know it sounds like a "Mission Impossible", but that's the charge I've been given for the Minister's Conference this Thursday at the Oil Belt Christian Service Camp in Flora.

Mark and I attended the conference last year, and not only was the conference informative and inspiring, it gave me a chance to renew several ministerial acquaintances. Shortly after the conference I received a note from the host of the conference, a classmate of mine from the sixties at Lincoln. Ron was still ministering at the church he had begun serving while in school, and wondered if I'd be interested in serving on a panel with himself and another classmate of ours who also was in a 40+ year ministry at the same church. He said he had received numerous requests for a session at the conference on how ministers stay put in a ministry for the long haul. I quickly agreed, and plans were made for us to each sum up the focus of our ministries, and what we feel made possible such long ministries, in five minutes. Then we'll open up for questions. I'm really looking forward to it, even though I'm not sure what I'm going to say or what questions will be asked.

It's no secret that the focus of my ministry in Chatham has been on preaching through the Bible, and on teaching. You would think that would be the universal focus of preachers, but that's not the case. Young preachers are more often cast into the role of a leader who is expected to lead a congregation to become bigger and more influential. Desiring to grow is obviously not a bad thing, but it can easily degenerate into expectations that measure the success of a ministry by quantifiable results. If a preacher doesn't produce, he's expected to leave so someone else can do what he apparently can't do. Even if the pressure doesn't come from the congregation, the preacher has been programed to view himself as a failure, at least in that church. The answer is to move on to some place else where he might find success, or to simply get out of the ministry.

Hopefully I can encourage some young ministers to focus on the Word, and see the value in simply being a preacher of the Word who is willing to leave the results of his ministry in the hands of the Lord.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 47

APRIL 5, 2017

NUMBER 13



Palm Sunday

STATISTICS

Worship 126
Offering \$9,904.68

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – 4/9/17

Greeters Jim & Mary Sexton
Visitors' Stand Bob & Dixie Williamson
Communion Meditation Paul Hunley
Bill Carroll
Ushers Connor Bales
Kent Ballard
Chris Luzio
Rick Polley
Will Bartels
Jeff Edmiston

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Erica Blakley
Jake Divjak
Infants Dixie Williamson
Emily Hughes
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Bonnie Ruebush



Let Us Pray For...

--The Gredzieleski's granddaughter born prematurely but doing well on ventilator.
--Nancy Barry's brother in treatment for cancer.

THE HEART OF PARADISE

We will conclude our reading of *The Heart of Paradise* this Sunday at 6:30. We finished looking at recovering femininity and masculinity last week, and will finish the paper by exploring what is necessary to recover marriage to its proper place in our homes, if not in society at large.

Even if you haven't attended the classes, you are invited to pickup a copy of the



The Be-YOU-ty Pageant is this weekend and there is still room if you would like to invite a friend while talking about it at school! You will be getting facials, manicures, pedicures and make-up by seasoned professionals. Also, you will get to try on numerous dresses while displaying a unique talent for the group to enjoy.

Drop off is 6pm this Friday at the church and pizza will be provided for dinner. Bring overnight supplies because Saturday morning will be the time to discuss the beauty God sees in all of us. We worship a wonderful, loving God! Pick up will be 11am at the Huber House on Saturday morning. Looking forward to seeing some awesome pictures!



Please call Bill Carroll at 725-2311 if you would like to join him at the banquet.



This year, Olivia is helping organize the Journey to the Cross event at Lakeside. There will be 14 stations of the cross to visit and experience the final week of Jesus life as we approach Resurrection Sunday together. From His time alone in the Garden to His empty tomb, the stations of the cross will provide a powerful visual for us to remember.

All kids are invited!! All parents are invited!! It runs from April 12-14, so feel free to go anytime by signing up on their website, but we have picked Friday, April 14th as a time to be with our church family and experience this together. So, here is the plan. We will meet at the Pizza Ranch at 6:00pm on the 14th with the goal of being at Lakeside for the 7pm Journey to the Cross. It takes a little over an hour to complete the 14 stations, so we should be done around 8:15.

A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board so we can register with an accurate count. I would be more than willing to take any youngster that needs a ride! Please see me on Sunday if you have any questions.



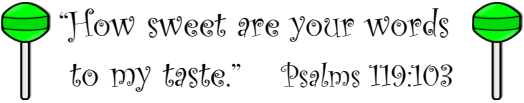
High School Girls

I just reviewed the agenda again for the LSCA Girls Retreat on April 28th-29th. It looks awesome with a great mix worship and learning! Be sure to sign up soon on the LSCA webpage to secure a spot!



A big THANK YOU for those who have contributed to the Pantry project! When all the area churches help out LSCA, it really helps keep the cost down for campers.

So far, we have collected 10 boxes of Fruit Loops and 5 boxes of Cheerios. That is a proper ratio in my book as I would pick a bowl of Fruit Loops over Cheerios any day. Our goal is 30 boxes of each. I'll keep you updated on what we need and again, thank you very much for remembering the camp when you are doing your grocery shopping.



Sorry I missed all of you last Sunday as I had to leave right after Sunday School! I'll make it up to you this week with a special Palm Sunday treat.

While I always accept the Sunday School memory verse or even a discussion about the lesson, try to memorize Matthew 21:9 since we are celebrating Palm Sunday. It reads; The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting—"Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"