

The first lengthy passage of Scripture I memorized as a youth was Romans 12, in KJV of course. It begins, "I Beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." I bring this up because of the focus on our bodies.

In an attempt to be spiritual, there is a tendency to downplay the importance of the body, overlooking the fact that our body has become the temple of the Holy Spirit, and as such we have a responsibility to take good care of it, and use it in service to God.

It's my desire to use my body for His service as long as He allows, and I believe He'll hold me accountable if I don't take care of it. That's why I try to workout three times a week, eat reasonably well, and let them put 84 radioactive seeds in my prostate last Wednesday. And that's why I'm now scheduled to see a cardiologist.

Yes, they discovered I had another problem while addressing the cancer they convinced me I had. The anesthesiologist almost called off the procure because of an irregular heart beat. Apparently I have AFib, atrial fibrillation. I guess I should have known.

I have been getting excessively tired lately, Marilyn noted that I sounded winded while giving the announcements on Easter, and the elliptical at Fit Club wasn't acting up, like I had assumed, when it noted my heart rate jumping between 120 and 170 while working out the Monday before surgery.

The good news in all this is that I'm feeling great, and have had almost no side effects from the seed implantation. And even though I have to carry a card saying there are radioactive seeds in my body in case I trigger a Geiger counter, I'm safe to be around, and I won't be glowing like Moses did when he came down from the mountain.

Thanks for all your prayers, texts, notes and words of encouragement. If anything makes me glow, it's your love for me.

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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# AN EMPTY BOX

a communion meditation by Kirk Polley

There's a story that on the Sunday after Easter, a Sunday School teacher gave each child in the class a small box. The children were instructed to go outside and find symbols of new life and put them in their box. Once dismissed they ran wildly throughout the property looking for something to fill their boxes. After several minutes the kids returned to the classroom and began sharing what they found. One by one they opened their boxes to show flowers, butterflies, leaves and more. Each time the class would "ooh" and "ahh". Then they got to a little boy who wasn't well liked by the other students. When he opened his box it showed that there was nothing in it. The other kids began to laugh and say things like "That's stupid! He didn't do it right!" That's when the little boy exclaimed, "I did to! It's empty...because the tomb where Jesus laid was found empty!"

That little boy understood that there was no greater symbol of new life than Jesus's empty tomb. It is through the resurrection of Jesus that we all have been given a new life.

1 Peter 1:3-5 reads: <sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Even though Easter is over...the plastic eggs have been put away...stores have put Easter candy on clearance...the snow has melted...we know the celebration is never over. As Christians we rejoice daily that our Savior is alive and that we have new life guaranteed through His blood and resurrection. We are not dead to sin but alive in Christ!

So as we gather around this table for communion, we can thank our Lord for the beauty of His creation and for flowers, and leaves, and butterflies. But let us really thank Him for an empty box!

## STATISTICS

Worship	4/1	151
Offering		\$5,028.00
Worship	4/8	108
Offering		\$7,193.87

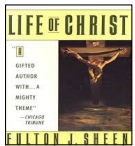
## SERVING THIS SUNDAY 4/15/18

Greeters .....	Chuck & Janice McLaughlin
Visitors' Stand .....	Rich & Karen Mann
Communion Meditation .....	Mark Huber
	Chris Luzio
Ushers .....	Will Bartels
	Duane Carrell
	Chad Formea
	Paul Hunley
	Otto Huber
	Chuck McLaughlin
<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>	
Toddlers .....	Marilyn Wenneborg
	Anna Hunley
Infants .....	Dixie Williamson
	Janice McLaughlin
	Courtney Bales
<b>Sunday School</b>	
Toddlers .....	Rhonda Luzio
Infants .....	Karen Mann
	Julie Divjak



## Let Us Pray For...

- Jack Ruebush having problems with his legs.
- Glenn Hamilton with serious health issues.
- Lori Gredzieleski's sister with kidney transplant and Lori traveling to be with her.



We will continue looking at the Seven Words from the Cross this Sunday evening at 6:30.

## News from Jamaica

Theo & Rose Miller, Missionaries

Even though thieves stole the copper wire to the house phone, Theo was able to get in touch with us through his cell phone. And the report was full of good news, beginning with news of the crusade they held in Claremont March 4-11. Theo said the attendance was great, no doubt in part to the fact that they hit the streets before the crusade, and spread the word through the community. He also reported that he had been given the privilege of speaking at the military college for troubled boys in St. Ann, and that the mayor had been in attendance.

He was also pleased to report that a work team from AIM had been in Claremont, building a kitchen and two bathrooms for the basic school that meets in the church. The team was planning to return last week to finish the much needed project.

Finally, he noted that after some clarification on expectations and responsibilities, the youth minister who is working with him in Claremont is doing a good job. He's grateful for the help, and for the fact that even more young people are being reached through their combined ministry.

He and Rose send their love, and are very grateful for our faithfulness in prayer and support.



## Jr. & Sr. High Students

April is a 5 Sunday month and has provided us with a service opportunity at the Villas of Hollybrook. The Villas is in need of someone to organize a service for the residents at 2:00pm that afternoon. I thought this would be a great opportunity for us to work together and coordinate a nice afternoon of worship for the home.

For those interested, we will meet before the 5th Sunday to work on the order of service. We can do this together and have fun with it! You can sing with us, read a passage of scripture, do a short communion meditation and even help me with the message if you would like to get involved in that way. Whatever we do, they will be most appreciative.

I am thinking we will go out for lunch after Sunday School that day then make our way over to the Villas. It shouldn't last more than an hour, so we will be finished by 3:00 that afternoon. Please consider helping with this service opportunity and we will discuss it more Sunday in class!



Our team has grown to 15 members! We are all getting excited as the mission trip will be here soon. The plane reservations have been made and the final details will fall into place over the next 6 weeks. For those going, obtaining or updating your passport is critical at this stage in our planning. If you have any questions or need help in regards to your passport, just let me know.



It's that time of year to be watching and playing a little baseball! For those who have graduated to and enjoy softball, please be thinking about if you would like to join the church softball team this year.

Last year, we played on Sunday afternoons in Rochester. Most likely, that will be the league we choose again. However, there is some effort being made to re-energize the league for Chatham area churches. If that materializes, we will talk and strongly consider playing against our brothers here in town. Either way, please let me know if softball interests you this year so we can start building a team!

## Pantry Project

**Please Donate!**



**Diced Tomatoes**  
20 #10 Cans

THANK YOU!



Lake Springfield Christian Assembly  
Camp and Retreat Center

Thank you to all who have brought in diced tomatoes for our LSCA Pantry Project this year. We are 17 cans away from our goal to help minimize food costs for campers this summer. They eat a lot of spaghetti! These are the BIG cans with 102 ounces of goodness inside. Our collection tub is located right by the visitor stand. Thanks again for supporting the camp in this way!

You Are Invited To:

*Christian Student Fellowship's*  
**24th Annual Fundraising Banquet**  
*Impacting Students | Changing Lives*

..... Saturday .....

**April 14, 2018 at 6:30pm**

*Lake Springfield Christian Assembly*  
*1674 Rd. Creek Rd. Chatham, IL*

**RSVP**

info@uiscsf.org, 217-414-9198  
or online at <http://www.uiscsf.org/fundraising-banquet.html>