

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

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If you haven't read "Communion Through the Eyes of Children" on the inside, please stop here and read it before continuing.

Isn't that beautiful! The future doesn't seem so bleak when the children of our church tell what Jesus has done for them, and share their knowledge of His Word. And it certainly makes everything we do for children well worth it.

When they are in the nursery they not only find adults and teens who love them, they also learn of Jesus' love for them. When they drag home their bags of homework from Sunday School we know those bags contain the truth that will guide them throughout their lives. When they are in Wee Worship and Junior Worship we trust they are developing habits of worship that will be with them for all eternity. When they study God's Word and discuss topics that have a bearing on their faith and witness we are equipping them for what lies ahead. When they stand in awe of all that has been done to make their time in VBS monumental, we pray their faith is being built on a solid foundation.

I am so glad that our church family includes people of all ages, and that we do try to meet the spiritual needs of all. Far too many churches ignore segments of their church that aren't thought to be relative to current goals and programs.

When Arvin was here to bring us up to date on the work of Oblong Children's Christian Home, he told me he has a very hard time getting into churches these days. Many have done away with Sunday School and don't have time for reports about work with children.

I trust we'll never get so busy doing "important" things that we won't have time for children. And I ask you to pray for our up-coming VBS, and for other activities that are being planned for the summer months. We may not be doing much on Sunday nights right now, but we certainly have not forgotten the children.

God Bless, Rick



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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

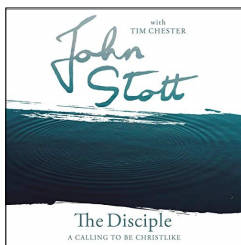
JUNE 6-9 6:15-8:30

For Kids K-5th

STATISTICS		
	5/1	
Worship		102
Offering		\$9,664.72
	5/8	
Worship		90
Offering		\$2,986.72
	5/15	
Worship		99
Offering		\$5,122.22
	5/22	
Worship		100
Offering		\$4,649.72



Congratulations to our graduating seniors Jake Divjak and Kate Sperry. Both will be recognized during the worship service this Sunday morning, and a reception will be held in the fellowship hall between worship and Sunday School.



Kevin Lasley will once again be leading a summer Sunday School class for college age kids. The class will begin on June 5th, and will meet in the church library. They will be discussing *The Disciple* by John Stott.

COMMUNION THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

A couple of years ago, I thought I had convinced my son, Caleb, to share a communion meditation. I figured it would be insightful to hear from a younger Christian (he was 9 years old at the time) and to have him share his thoughts on communion with us. He bailed on me the week before, so it didn't happen.

Unfortunately, neither Caleb, now 11, nor my 5-year-old daughter Eden, were willing to give the communion meditation this morning, so I came up with a plan to get them to share their thoughts anyway: I interviewed them and took notes. So here are their thoughts on this important part of our service. And, yes, I did obtain parental permission to share their responses publicly.

What is communion, who takes communion, and why do we have communion?

Caleb: Communion shows us what Jesus has given for us at the Last Supper. It is taken by people to show that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Eden: Something that we remember what God did, by people who have been baptized so that...I don't remember.

While I assured them that no grades would be assigned to their work, I was proud to see that Caleb recognized how this part of the service is an outward expression of our faith in Jesus and that Eden knew that communion would help us remember what God did for us... and then immediately forgot what it was that she needed to remember.

What happened at the cross and why?

Caleb: Jesus died on the cross after being tortured with pain and sin to pay the price for our sins for us so that we could go to heaven.

Eden: Jesus died on the cross so that we can go to heaven with him.

Both of my children understood that the cross meant death for Christ and heaven for us. Caleb pointed out that the pain and suffering that Jesus experienced was the price for our sins.

Next, in my interviews, I wanted to get their thoughts on the custom and practice itself, so I asked: *Who started the custom of communion? Why do we have communion at the end of our service on Sunday mornings?*

Caleb: I don't know, but at each Christmas, there is a Christ-mass. Mass is another word for communion. As Rick said, we have communion at this time in the service so that we don't skip the sermon.

Eden: Jesus?

I also asked them: *What happens when you take communion?*

Caleb: You show that you believe that Christ is your Savior.

Eden: You eat the bread and you drink the drink. (When pressed on what the drink was, she said, "I don't know...it tastes like blueberries!")

All blueberries aside, while it seems that they approached this question from very different perspectives, I think they are both spot on.

(At several points in the meditation Chris inserted appropriate passages of Scripture that corresponded to what his children were saying. He closed by encouraging us all to remember what communion is all about.)



Its time to schedule some summer swim time at the Hubers! Let's start with these...

- **High School:** Historically around dinner time is the best for your group. Let's plan on Wednesday, June 15th for our first swim. We will grill out and swim from 5:00pm to whenever.
- **Junior High:** Wednesday, June 22nd. The plan is to swim from 1:00 to 3:00 and snack on plenty of food.
- **K-5:** Wednesday, June 29th. We will also swim/snack from 1:00-3:00. Feel free to bring a friend!



VBS is roughly two weeks away! The focus will be on the monumental greatness of God by exploring nature and the obedient life of Joseph. God used Joseph to accomplish His will in many areas, including pointing us to the one who will truly save his people. We pray kids will leave understanding it is Jesus and only Jesus who can wash away sins.

The entire Word of God points to Christ. From Genesis to Revelation, the Lamb of God is the focal point of God's redemptive plan. In the case of Joseph, he is sometimes looked to as a pre-figure to Jesus since there are so many similarities between his life and the life of Christ. Here are a few:

- Joseph was sold for silver as was Jesus when Judas betrayed Him.
- In Egypt, Joseph's brothers did not recognize him. In a similar fashion, many Jews did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- Joseph was condemned with two criminals as was Jesus on the cross.
- Joseph's brothers bowed their knee to him while in Philippians we read that every knee will bow to Jesus.
- Joseph's obedience even throughout his suffering saved many. Jesus was obedient to death, it is his death, burial and resurrection which saves those who have faith and believe in Him.

Before the foundation of the world, Jesus knew what it would take to restore the relationship between the creation and the Creator. And He created us anyway. Our lives and VBS should point others to the cross and the amazing love of Jesus. Thank you to everyone who is making this VBS possible as we minister to those around us.