

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

On the front side of it, fifty years looks like an extremely long time. On the back side, not so much. It seems like just yesterday that a 25 year old preacher and his teenage wife arrived in Chatham.

Marilyn and I had been serving in Kansas for two years when two couples from Chatham came for a visit. They told us about a new church that had been established after we left Springfield, and how they were in need of a preacher. The church was meeting in the old DICKEY-john building but was buying four acres, and had big plans. The opportunity to minister with a new congregation, and to be close to family, made the decision easy.

After preaching nearly 2,500 sermons, writing over 2,000 columns for the church paper, baptizing 317, burying 175, and marrying 129 couples, they tell me it's time to celebrate. Mark said we will be celebrating the goodness of our Lord, and I couldn't agree more.

For fifty years He has blessed me with a church family that has given me the opportunity to share with them my love for the Lord and His word. You have entrusted me with the privilege of offering personal and congregational guidance, and have generously provided for the needs of my family. I can't thank you, or Him, enough.

What does the future hold for us? Only the Lord knows. There is nothing I'd rather be doing than what I am now doing, so the idea of retiring has no appeal for me. As long as the Lord blesses me with the physical and mental strength to continue, and you are willing to let me keep on teaching and leading, I plan on doing so. I'll do what I can to remain physically and mentally fit as long as possible, but am confident the elders will discern when it's time for me to declare with the Apostle Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

Until then, I guess you're still stuck with me. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 51

July 1, 2023

NUMBER 7



**COME CELEBRATE THE GOODNESS OF OUR LORD AS  
WE ACKNOWLEDGE RICK'S 50 YEARS OF FAITHFUL  
MINISTRY IN CHATHAM ON SUNDAY, JULY 9TH!**

STATISTICS			
	6/4		
Worship		120	
Offering		\$14,400.30	
	6/11		
Worship		138	
Offering		\$4,517.18	
	6/18		
Worship		104	
Offering		\$4,018.64	
	6/25		
Worship		116	
Offering		\$4,548.96	

### COLLEGE SUMMER CLASS

Our college age kids are continuing to learn the importance of living life backward during Sunday School this summer. All are welcome to join them in the library.

### CPR CLASS

A CPR class will be offered on Saturday, July 8th, beginning at 9:00 at the church. Everyone is welcome to attend, but those who work in the nursery are especially encouraged to attend. Those desiring to come should let Rhonda Luzio know before July 2nd.



Thanks to our church family for the flowers and kindness expressed to the Reese family at brother Dale's passing. God Bless all. Beryl and family



### EXAMINE YOURSELF NOW

Communion meditation by Rick Polley

*"Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup." (1 Cor 11:28 NIV)*

Am I the only one? Or are there others in this room who will put off seeing the doctor when you probably need to? I know in the past I have complained to my wife of some pain I'm having and the first thing she will say is "you better go see the doctor". And because I think she is overreacting, I usually just let her advice go in one ear and out the other. But you know what? Because my pain doesn't go away, it's just a matter of time before I find myself sitting in the doctor's office.

And it hasn't happened, but if I keep on procrastinating to see the doctor when I really need to, it's possible that someday I could hear the dreaded words, "I wish you came to me sooner," and then the doctor gives me some really bad news.

You see, physical self-examination doesn't keep us from getting sick, or infected with a disease, or having pain. But it does help us realize we need to get to the doctor quickly to limit the impact the sickness, infection, or pain is going to have on us.

That is exactly the same purpose that weekly self-examination has for the Christian that the Apostle Paul talks about in this scripture. Even though we have been saved, you and I are still going to mess up, we are going to sin. And the bad thing about sinning is not dealing with it. But through this weekly self-examination, we can seek God's help early when we suspect something is not right in our spiritual walk. Then God can make us aware of what is wrong and help heal us to keep sin from having a major impact on our lives.

In the same way that we know what "normal" feels like in our bodies, we also know what "normal" feels like in our spiritual walk. It is the assurance and confidence we have knowing that our lives are glorifying God when we model ourselves after our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And through the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives we do know when things aren't right with the Lord.

So, let's all heed Paul's advice and let's examine ourselves now before we partake of these communion elements. Let's don't wait until it's too late and we hear those dreaded words from our Lord one day, "I wish you came to me sooner." And then He gives us some really bad news.



Some of us have been attending CCC for a long time. Some recently discovered the church and have begun to worship here with our community of believers. And others, a few, have been here with Rick from the beginning of his ministry in Chatham when he arrived in July of 1973.

While he has been preaching for over 50 years, if you do the math, next month is his 50th anniversary at Chatham Christian Church. That is definitely cause for a celebration! We hope you will plan to join us!

During the worship service on July 9th, we will take time after communion to acknowledge this accomplishment. Afterwards, there will be cake and a reception in the fellowship hall. Therefore, there will be no Sunday School on July 9th. Spread the word so all those Rick has blessed over the years won't miss out on this special morning!



### Sr & Jr High Students

You'll have to wait until the next paper for all the details, but in the meantime, try your best to reserve Saturday, August 12th for the Amazing Race. Tina and I will have plenty of time during our vacation to brainstorm a few ideas. We will try to make this the best one ever with plenty of octopus to eat and physical tasks to wear you out!



The High School summer conference is coming up fast! To date, 14 of us will be traveling to Warrensburg, MO for a week of focused worship and study. Below are the details you need to know.

We will be leaving CCC at 9:00am on Monday, July 17th. You will need the obvious essentials (don't forget bedding), enough money for two meals while traveling, snacks throughout the week and a little set aside for incidentals. Also, Thursday afternoon is free time. Please bring some money for that afternoon in case we decide to go back to the Main Event Amusement Center like we did last year.

We will be returning around midnight on Friday, July 21st. This is a week that our kids reflect on for months, sometimes years. Please keep us in your prayers leading up to and during the week of the conference.



### Kindergarten -5th grade

Let's plan on Wednesday, July 12th for a Wacky Water Wednesday at the church! Plus, let's add some ice cream! Besides a big slip and slide and water balloons, I'll think of some other fun water activities for the afternoon.

The fun will begin around 1pm and we can all hang out till around 3pm. Parents you are welcome to find some shade and enjoy the afternoon with us, I can't guarantee you would stay dry, but a little cool down in July will probably feel good anyway. See you all then!