

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

By the time you read this Marilyn and I will be making final preparations to head for the Holy Land, or already be there.

As you may have picked up in last month's newsletter, going to the Holy Land had not been a big item on my bucket list. I had reservations about the sites that have been identified, and had become convinced that no one really knew where biblical events actually took place. My skepticism has now been blown away!

Whether it was an algorithm or divine intervention I'm not sure, but I am sure the Lord had a hand in it. However He did it, I was led to Joel Kramer and Expedition Bible on YouTube, and I'm so glad I was. I've watched all his videos and read his book on biblical archeology, and am now ready to see it all myself. I couldn't be more excited. On second thought, maybe I could be.

I really love sharing life's adventures with you; yours and mine. When Marilyn and I went to Europe we took lots of pictures, and shared them with all who were willing to endure a very long presentation. I can't believe I was asked if I was going to do it again after this trip.

Rather than have one marathon picture night, I've decided to incorporate our pictures into a series of Sunday night studies on the archeological evidences for the sacred sites as presented by Joel in his book and videos. That's why the "change of plans" for Sunday nights.

I'm still looking forward to sharing with you Tim Challies' "Epic: An around-the-world journey through Christian history." I had said we'd start that in September, but at that time our trip to the Holy Land was not on our radar. Now that it's happening, we'll begin Tim's study after we finish our epic around the Holy Land journey with you.

Hope to see you at the kick-off on the 10th, and looking forward to sharing our trip with you Sunday nights, beginning with a lot of pictures on September 17th.

God bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

VOLUME 51

September 1, 2023

NUMBER 9



September 10th

2:00PM-Amazing Race

(Jr/Sr High Students)

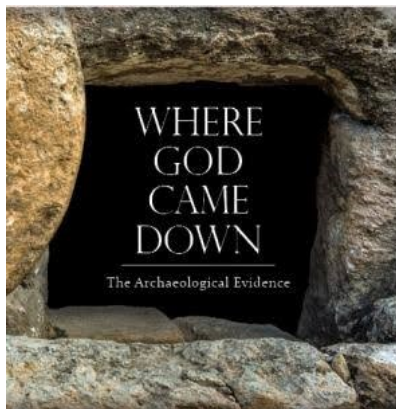
5:00PM- Pre-Dinner Fellowship

6:00PM - Pizza & Salad

7:00PM- Trivia Contest Round 11

**** Details Inside ****

STATISTICS		
	8/6	
Worship		107
Offering		\$14,599.34
	8/13	
Worship		123
Offering		\$2,729.00
	8/20	
Worship		128
Offering		\$10,104.00



CHANGE OF PLANS for adult Sunday Night Study

Our announced journey through Christian history scheduled to begin on Sept. 17th has been pushed back by an unexpected journey to the Holy Land. We will begin this year's 6:30 Sunday night adult studies with a look at archeological sites in the land where God came down.

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday night adult Bible study will begin again on Sept. 13th at 6:30. We will be picking up our study of I Corinthians with a quick review of chapter 8 before moving on to chapter 9.

All adults are invited to join us around the ping pong table.

PAUL HUNLEY MEDITATION

Well, I wonder what family story or event I can weave into my communion meditation this week?

About 2 ½ years ago I started hearing a boy's name become more regular in my conversations with Grace. The name was Zach Marcop-o-something. Marcopulos. It was definitely a mouthful. Then this tall curly headed boy started coming by the house when Grace would come home from college. And after playing many games of backgammon, Tens, board games, wiffle ball, basketball, pickleball, and watching him handle the insanity of our house, I told Nikki, "I think this might be the one."

And then came the call that all dads wonder if the boy has the guts to make. "Hello, PPPPaul, I would like to take you and Nikki out for dinner, just the three of us." I asked him if he was nervous, and he said, "Very." Then I told him there was no need to be. We had spent plenty of time with Zach and knew that he loved Grace and he loved Jesus even more. As Nikki and I were preparing for the conversation we were discussing what we were going to say, and we came to the conclusion that the bottom line is if you keep Christ at the center of your marriage, you will be good.

So how should a husband love His wife? Ephesians 5:25-28, "Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies."

Although this is fantastic advice for all husbands, it is so much more. It is pointing to the sacrificial love of Christ. Love that put him on the cross, willingly accepting the punishment for our sin, so that we could be cleansed and made free. If we will only accept his proposal and stay faithful to Him.

So as you are holding in your hands the elements that represent His sacrifice, take the time to consider exactly what Jesus did to bring you into relationship with God, and provide you with the way to heaven. And how that right relationship with Him blesses all of your other relationships this side of heaven.



The date set for our Fall Kick-Off is September 10th. Be sure to mark this one in your calendar! It will be an action packed afternoon and evening for all ages.

In the afternoon, the junior high and high school students will be running a race around Springfield. The final destination will be the church. Many want bragging rights for a first place finish so it will be fun to see which team crosses the finish line first.

Everyone else is welcome to arrive at the church anytime around 5:00pm for some fellowship. I will have pizza delivered at 6:00pm, but beforehand, the younger kids can enjoy the bounce house and other games if you arrive early.

Then, since we all enjoyed some friendly competition around trivia questions last year, we will again break up into teams and head into the auditorium for a trivia contest. We will see who can dethrone the winners from last year.

It's shaping up to be a fun day. Hope to see you all there!



Sunday School promotion will be taking place during the announcement time in our worship service this Sunday morning. A brief overview of the curriculum will be shared and tables will display some examples of the children's work. Come celebrate with those receiving awards and being promoted!



Currently there are 18 of us committed to helping with this event in St. Louis on Saturday, October 14th. There is definitely room for more! And remember, this is a great opportunity for the family to serve together. The organizers set up tasks appropriate for all ages, from those in kindergarten to those who graduated from kindergarten many years ago.

Our shift that day runs from 12:45-2:45. Last year we went out to Dave and Busters afterwards for an early dinner and games. If there are no objections, we will plan on that again.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve and help pack food for children in need around the world. More details will be announced as we get closer to the event.



Jr/Sr High School Students

The sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board Sunday. Ideally, each team will have three members. If you really need to have a team of four, just see me and I am sure we can work it out.

The race will start at 2:00pm on September 10th and we hope to see you at church by 6:00pm. You never know how long the race will take. However, I am going to make it tough this year so bring your competitive spirit and desire to win! You'll need it for the food challenge!