

## In this Issue:

### Articles

- Kinda, Sorta, Committed
- What's Coming Up in the Children & Families Department?
- Giving Thanks for Youth Ministry
- Golden Lifer's Update
- Foster Care Ministry Update
- Library Update

### Messages

### Events

### News

- Meet Our Misisonaries

## ARTICLES

### Kinda, Sorta, Committed

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

I'm kind of, sort of, committed to my Fidelity retirement planning. Once or twice a year, I check to see how things are going. Occasionally, I make a change to the investments. I must confess to Fidelity that Steph and I have been seeing someone else. Don't worry, we aren't pulling funds out, but Edward Jones is getting a bit more attention than you are. I'm kinda, sorta, committed.

There are a host of things I am kinda, sorta, committed to... Exercise is another. I did really well for two weeks. I used a stepper thing for 30 minutes a day, five days a week, but then I got sick and took a vacation. Work piled up quickly, and now I have no desire to exercise.

What about you? What are you kinda, sorta, committed to?

At the dedication of the temple, Solomon prays a loooooong prayer (1 Kings 8:23-53). Then he stands and proclaims these words to the people...

8:56 "Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. 8:57 May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. 8:58 May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers. 8:59 And may these words of mine, which I have prayed before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, that he may uphold the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel according to each day's need, 8:60 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God and that there is no other. 8:61 **But your hearts must be fully committed to the LORD our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time.**" (1 Kings 8:56-61)

What a great statement of praise... God has helped us (56). Then a statement of hope... May God keep us on track and continue to help us (57-59). Then a statement of purpose... May the result be that ALL PEOPLE KNOW GOD IS LORD. Finally, a clear challenge... **God's help and mission rests on our being fully committed to Him!**

I hope you are saying, "I'm all in God! I am

yours. I'll do whatever you call me to do."

If that is you, I want to flesh that out a bit... What does it mean to be committed to following Jesus?

#1. We commit to daily prayer and Bible reading. You have God's Word readily available. Are you reading and studying his words with a humble, prayerful heart?

#2. We commit to obeying God's instructions. This includes discipling others, witnessing to the lost, gathering in worship, giving to His mission, and serving with our God-given abilities.

#3. We commit to His body, the church. Our membership vows and our leadership covenant lay out this commitment well. We commit to following Jesus with other believers, to love them, to receive correction, and to correct our fellow believers.

Have you committed to partnering with us as a member (see The Discovering Membership Packet at the information desk)? Have you committed to leading well by signing our leadership covenant (available at the information desk)? Solomon makes it clear that it's not perfection God is looking for, but a passionate commitment! So, are you kinda, sorta, committed, or fully

committed?

I urge you take the step of commitment today! Partner as a member or sign our Leadership Covenant so all people may know the Lord is God!

**What's up with the Task Force, staffing, and the RCA?** Join us for the congregational meeting on Nov. 10 for details.

## **What's Coming Up in the Children & Families Department?**

**By Adrea Daane**

Don't forget to join us for our annual Operation Christmas Child packing party on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. We'll be serving pizza to start out the night and will move into packing the shoe boxes after that. The basement will be set up to make packing easy with instructions and opportunities for you to put your own mark on each box you pack. We are so excited to see how this night can be used for God's glory as our families come together in a time of service.

Look for our fall Resource/Bible sale table to come out in the next couple of weeks. This is a great chance to see some materials that are available this

year. These materials will be available for order as in past years and will be a combination of some of our tried and true favorites and some new additions.

The season of Advent will be here before we know it. The Children & Families team has put together a family devotional again this year. Make sure to keep your eyes open for more information as December gets closer. We hope that this year will give our families of the ARC a new chance to connect as families and keep focused on the reason we all come together for the season of Christmas.

Mark your calendars...December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm will be our annual Sunday School Christmas program. All preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be invited to participate. More details to come!!!

## **Giving Thanks for Youth Ministry**

**By Jessa Ter Beest**

This month I want to focus on all the things I'm thankful about in youth ministry! It can be crazy, but it is also amazing! I'm thankful...

- for busy kids that show up to church anyway

- for the tough questions the kids ask because it helps us all grow deeper in our faith!
- for parents and grandparents that are willing to drive their kids to and from church multiple times a week
- for kids that worship with their whole heart during every Jr Choir practice and every praise band practice
- for a church that is appreciative of my efforts and blesses me! Thank you!!
- for kids that use their talents for God to bless the ministry at our church
- for people who randomly write cards of encouragement - you have no idea how much you mean to me!
- for the abundance of financial support of our retreats and mission trips
- for parents that continue the discipleship at home - you're the real MVP!
- for ice cream and coffee with kids just to get to know them a little better
- for laughter when we play games at youth group and have time to goof around
- for middle schoolers that step out of their comfort zone to pray for and read Psalms to nursing home residents

- for kids who invite friends to youth group or to do Bible Studies with them
- for my coaches that come every week without fail and put their heart and soul into this ministry
- for kids' honesty about their lives
- for prayer
- for my increasingly used Bible
- for the Gideon's Life Books
- for all those prayer warriors that keep this ministry covered in prayer
- for an amazing staff that is so supportive

And last of all, we all know that none of this would be possible without a God from whom all blessings flow - so He deserves the greatest thanks of all! He is a gracious giver!

### **Thanksgiving Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt**

Our Annual Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt will take place Wednesday, November 13th! Here is a list of the items we will be collecting! If you'd like us to stop by your house that night, please give me a call @ 920-979-1853 or let one of the coaches know. Thanks!

Turkeys - 100 points

Whole chickens or partial turkeys - 50 points

Mashed potatoes - Boxes 50 points, Bags 30 points

Gravy (packets or jars) - 30 points  
Stuffing (boxes or bags) - 30 points  
Pumpkin/pumpkin pie filling - 30 points  
Evaporated Milk/Sweetened condensed milk - 30 points  
Pumpkin pie spice - 30 points  
Pie Shell/crust - 30 points  
French Fried Onions - 30 points  
All other non perishable food or hygiene items - 10 points  
Other meat such as Hams, ground beef, chicken breasts, etc - 50 points per package  
Monetary donations - 10 points per dollar

## **Golden Lifers Update**

### **By Roxy Schouten**

October 31 gets overshadowed by secular observations. Even the Church has often lost sight of a significant event on this date. On this date, Martin Luther nailed the 95 thesis on a church door in Germany that was to mark a significant point in the struggle to return to the beliefs and practices of the early church. The Dark Ages began to lose its grip where lay people did not have Scripture to use as final authority on their beliefs and practices. This was a significant mark in time when the 5 “solos” were again practiced – “only Scripture”, “only Faith”, “only Grace”, “only Jesus Christ”, “only Glory of God”.

I recently purchased the classic book “Foxe’s Book Of Martyrs” which describes the atrocities experienced by Believers who held to and practiced those “solos”. The atrocities we recently hear of committed by ISIS and other terrorist groups are an inkling of what these Believers experienced.

Golden Lifers are studying the book of Romans while being led by Pastor Ted. This book was pivotal in bringing people back to the Gospel when once they were allowed to read Scripture for themselves. A summary of the book of Romans is found in Rom 1:16-17 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, the just shall live by faith”. (KJV)

So many things take us away from this powerful message. Yes, older adults struggle with accepting and living this too. Pastor Ted shared his concern as he has visited with many older adults with guilt over past sins or life styles and doubt the assurances of God’s forgiveness and imputed righteousness. Romans has those assurances. Praise God!!!!

Therefore, we send a strong invitation and

urgency to all those older adults to join us as we tackle those issues. Each word, verse and page holds treasures to be discovered as we learn and share our experiences. As invited at the end of scripture in Rev. 22:17, "Come"!

## **Foster Care Ministry Update** **By Lindsey Bruins & Benita Ter** **Beest**

Since the initial Foster Care Awareness event back in June, this ministry has been busy supporting families and growing our volunteer base. We currently have 22 trained volunteers either serving on one of two active care communities or waiting to serve once an additional foster family has a placement. Some of the ways these volunteers serve are by providing a meal once a month, assisting with transportation, acting as a child mentor, or offering interim childcare while the foster parents take some much needed time for rest and relaxation. Another way our volunteers serve is as a team leader for a specific care community. This person calls the foster family once a week to see how they are doing and to ask for any prayer requests or praises that they then share in a weekly email to their care community. It's amazing to see the way God works not only in these foster parents but the children as well. Check out this update from one of our families:

"I can't thank you all enough for the way you have supported our family through spending time with our kids, showing up, making meals, praying, checking in, etc. We are seeing leaps and bounds of progress be made! I never thought they'd hug us to now they randomly let me hug them even if it isn't bedtime! And they let my head touch their head when I hug. I can't even tell you how much that means to me. Oh, and they wanted to ride with ME this morning after church like I was the cooler one or something. Hahaha! Totally surprising because I never felt like I had that motherly instinct. Well look at me now! Not perfect by any means, but God certainly has been able to use us just because we let him and said 'yes'... and having all of you along on this journey has made such a difference! I can't imagine doing this without you all."

How AMAZING is that? If you want to learn more about how YOU can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable youth by supporting foster families, we invite you to SAVE THE DATE and attend our next Awareness Event on Sunday, November 17th at 11:45am. Keep a look out for more details to come in the bulletin. We're so thankful for your continued support!

## **Library Update** **By Jean Stelsel**

Do you think autumn is one of your favorite times of the year? I do! It's not just the beautiful colors outside, it's that special time that brings all the hard work you've put into the fields and gardens as you gather the crops in for the final time this year! It's also a space of time between the busyness of the holidays that you can actually curl up with a good book!

We have quite a collection of good reads in the library that covers whatever you're in the mood for. If you're looking for a light-hearted romance, you can find one set in any time period. The Eighteenth century, the Old West, Historical Wisconsin, Amish country, or Biblical fiction, it's all right here!

If you want to go deeper, we have many interesting non-fiction books for you. Also, some suspense-filled novels and crime stories that many have enjoyed. Irene Hannon's 3 book Men of Valor series is excellent!

It's easy to check out! Just sign your name on the card in the back and leave it in the basket on the desk. It's easy to return books! Just drop them in the blue bin and we will put them back on the shelf for you. Enjoy!!

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## MESSAGES

Many thanks for your recent donation to the Waupun Food Pantry. We truly appreciate the generosity of people like you. Your help enables us to help those in our community who are struggling.

-Waupun Food Pantry

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## EVENTS



### **PACKING PARTY** Operation

Christmas Child Packing Party -  
Wednesday, November 6th at 5:30-  
7:30pm

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Congregational Meeting - Sunday,  
November 10th at 10:45am

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## Foster Care

Awareness Event - Sunday, November 17th at 11:45am



Thanksgiving Eve Service - Wednesday, November 27th at 7pm

## NEWS

### Meet Our Missionaries

Our mission is to know Jesus and to make Him known. One of the ways we are making this mission a reality is by supporting missionaries both locally and around the world. To learn more about the missionaries we support and the organizations they work with, you may visit their websites or subscribe to their newsletters to stay up to date on the work they're doing, what's going on in their lives, and how you can support them

through prayer.



Chris Briggs - Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

<https://www.cccdjamaica.org/>

To subscribe to general CCCD updates go to [www.cccdjamaica.org](http://www.cccdjamaica.org) and click the link at the bottom of the page where it says "Stay informed about the CCCD!"

For Chris' family updates, please email the following info

to [cbiggs@cccdjamaica.org](mailto:cbiggs@cccdjamaica.org) and he will add you to the mailing list.

*Name:*

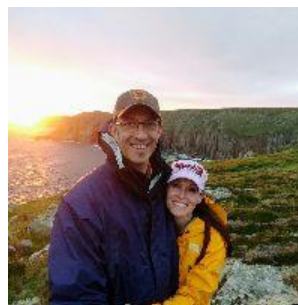
*Church name:*

*e-mail address:*

*updates: y/n*

*special prayer requests: y/n*

*support opportunities: y/n*



Steve & Amanda Bialy - Converge

<https://converge.org/give/183229>



Newsletter

Subscription: <http://eepurl.com/dw0aCf>



Mandy Kimes - His House Christian Fellowship

<https://hhcf.org/>

Newsletter

Subscription: <http://eepurl.com/cQB505>



Preston & Jersey Sheldon - Overland Missions

<http://www.overlandmissions.com/>

Newsletter

Subscription: <http://prestonsheldon10.wixsite.com/newsletter>

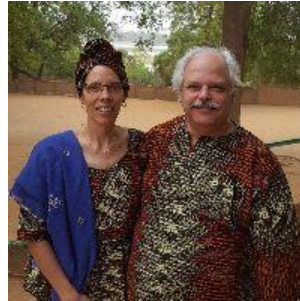


Bob & Amy Abel - Remember Nhu

[www.remembernhu.org](http://www.remembernhu.org)

Newsletter

Subscription: [www.eepurl.com/b4xG8D](http://www.eepurl.com/b4xG8D)



Randy & Wanda Potratz - SIM

[www.sim.org/](http://www.sim.org/)

Newsletter

Subscription: <http://eepurl.com/bhnBiz>



Scott Ritzema - Youth For Christ

[www.yfc.net](http://www.yfc.net)

Newsletter subscription is not available at this time.

