

Defending the Truth



But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it.
Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News.
Colossians 1:23

Prayerfocus

As we gather may your Spirit move within us...

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Allene Young– gall bladder infection
Catrina Bartlett Dye– baby girl is
breech
Marge Hall– surgery 10/2
Ann Conn– skin surgery recovery
Don Scoles– recovery
Penny Walk– thyroid meds
Olivia Clayton– Praise!! At home,
3 mo old baby healing
Amber Niemeyer– correct medications
for brain injury
Jackie Ames– shoulder healing
Marilyn Walk– shoulder recovery

ONGOING CONCERNS:

Grade School Ministries
FCC Fall Calendar

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley
Mehari
Joydeb
Axel
Melanie

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper– Heartland
Elsie Phillips– Heartland
Carolyn Gast– Cumberland Co
Allene Young– Harmony Center

FIGHTING CANCER:

Chuck Bartlett
Brad Odum
Megan Buxton
Sam Bean
Mel Hood
Phyllis Kirtner
Michelle Simpson
Clint Mausehund
Denny Mefford
Bob Trefzger
Bob Tucker

IN THE MILITARY:

Shane Gephardt
Tyler Briggerman– Navy
Wes Letizia– Air Force
Alicia & Steve Tordoff–
Army Reserve

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Ministries:

Elders & Deacons
Children's
Youth
College / Young Adult
Seniors
Praise / Tech Team
Community Clothesline
Small Groups
Sunday School
Benevolence
Outreach

Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry
Heartland Christian Village
Oblong Christian Children's Home
Christian Campus House,
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp
International Missions:
Ryan & Melinda Hicks
October: Global Eye Glass Ministry

October 8-20

**Ryan & Melinda Hicks will be on their
first Mission Trip to Africa.**

The Weapon of Prayer,

E.M. Bounds

excerpt from Chapter 2

PUTTING GOD TO WORK

For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him! Isaiah 64:4

The assertion voiced in the title given this chapter is but another way of declaring that God has of His own motion placed Himself under the law of prayer, and has obligated Himself to answer the prayers of men. He has ordained prayer as a means whereby He will do things through men as they pray, which He would not otherwise do. Prayer is a specific divine appointment, an ordinance of heaven, whereby God purposes to carry out His gracious designs on earth and to execute and make efficient the plan of salvation.

When we say that prayer puts God to work, it is simply to say that man has it in his power by prayer to move God to work in His own way among men, in which way He would not work if prayer was not made. Thus while prayer moves God to work, at the same time God puts prayer to work. As God has ordained prayer, and as prayer has no existence separate from men, but involves men, then logically prayer is the one force which puts God to work in earth's affairs through men and their prayers. Let these fundamental truths concerning God and prayer be kept in mind in all allusions to prayer, and in all our

reading of the incidents of prayer in the Scriptures.

If prayer puts God to work on earth, then, by the same token, prayerlessness rules God out of the world's affairs, and prevents Him from working. And if prayer moves God to work in this world's affairs, then prayerlessness excludes God from everything concerning men, and leaves man on earth the mere creature of circumstances, at the mercy of blind fate or without help of any kind from God. It leaves man in this world with its tremendous responsibilities and its difficult problems, and with all of its sorrows, burdens and afflictions, without any God at all. In reality the denial of prayer is a denial of God Himself, for God and prayer are so inseparable that they can never be divorced.

Prayer affects three different spheres of existence—the divine, the angelic and the human. It puts God to work, it puts angels to work, and it puts man to work. It lays its hands upon God, angels and men. What a wonderful reach there is in prayer! It brings into play the forces of heaven and earth. God, angels and men are subjects of this wonderful law of prayer, and all these have to do with

the possibilities and the results of prayer. God has so far placed Himself subject to prayer that by reason of His own appointment, He is induced to work among men in a way in which He does not work if men do not pray. Prayer lays hold upon God and influences Him to work. This is the meaning of prayer as it concerns God. This is the doctrine of prayer, or else there is nothing whatever in prayer.

Prayer puts God to work in all things prayed for. While man in his weakness and poverty waits, trusts and prays, God undertakes the work. "For from old men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen a God beside thee, which worketh for him that waiteth for thee."

Jesus Christ commits Himself to the force of prayer. "Whatsoever ye ask in My Name," He says, "that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My Name, I will do it." And again: "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what he will and it shall be done unto you."

Ladies' Bible Study

The study of Jonah and how we can better navigate our lives when interruptions come continues through the first week of November. We are challenged and encouraged by Priscilla Shirer's words of instruction and the daily Bible study. If you were not able to join a group this time, you are encouraged to include the book of Jonah in your own personal study.

Travel With The Seniors

Thursday, October 8, 2015 : Tour of Neoga's Former Elementary Building

We will meet at 11 am at the First Christian Church, leave our cars at the church, board the van, and travel across town to the Former Elementary Building. Our own Matt Davis will lead us in our devotion, share information regarding the summer and fall youth programs, give us a tour of the facilities, and discuss their current use. Following Matt's presentation, we will board the van, travel to the Villa, where we will treat ourselves for lunch, and following lunch return to FCC via the van.

Friday November 20, 2015: Senior Day At The Festival of Trees sponsored by The Baby Fold

Established in 1902, The Baby Fold, located in Normal, IL, embodies Christian principles to help families and children develop the hope, courage, and love they need to become whole and healthy citizens. They specialize in working with children and youth who have severe emotional and behavioral disorders. The Baby Fold never gives up on a child. Each year, through the efforts of many, many volunteers, the Festival of Trees raises thousands of dollars to support this excellent ministry.

"Wrapped In Joy" is this year's theme for the Festival of Trees. We will leave FCC at 8:30 am and travel, via the van, to Bloomington, IL to the Interstate Center and attend Senior Day at the Festival. The entry fee is \$5.00 per senior. We can purchase and enjoy our noon lunch in an area surrounded by many, many, many beautiful decorated Christmas Trees, as well as be entertained by youth from various local schools. In different areas of the Interstate Center, we will see many beautiful wreaths, center pieces, and ginger bread houses. Likewise, if desired, many of these items can be purchased. The van will leave the Interstate Center around 3:00 pm and return to Neoga by 5pm.

Thursday December 10, 2015: A Visit At the Cross.

We will meet at FCC, board the van, journey to Effingham, visit the Cross, see the video, and view many Nativity Sets that will be on display. Following the visit at the Cross, we will treat ourselves for lunch at Ryan's. More details later.

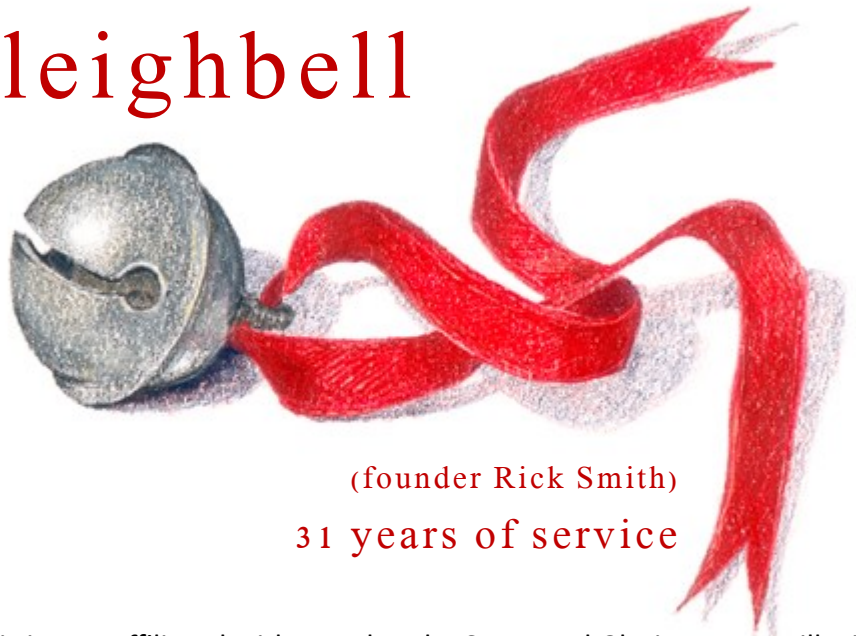


Colossians 1:9

"We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding."

Operation Sleighbell

This ministry helps many families have the opportunity to buy Christmas for their families, at a very low cost, who otherwise may not be able to have Christmas. All Children are guaranteed at least one toy.



(founder Rick Smith)

31 years of service

- ♦ 39 Counties are served in Illinois
- ♦ 5 counties are served in Indiana

We will serve **7 counties** here in Neoga. This is not affiliated with any church. Steve and Gloria Massengill will lead this ministry in our area. This will be at the Old Neoga Short's Building in December. All persons must have an appointment to come. More info will be shared soon on times, dates and how to make an appointment.

There are several ways you can help:

PRAYER– We can never have too much prayer.

MONETARY– Donate money to buy new items. All checks should be made to: Sleighbell Ministry.

LOVE OFFERING– A one time love offering would help in purchasing new items.

DONATE– Donation of new toys and coats, etc. would greatly help.

VOLUNTEER– We can always use help in setup, unloading a partial semi (first Saturday in November), and taking everything down.

Anything you can do would help us to help others. Thank You! If you can help in any way, please contact Steve Massengill @ 273-7807.

Christmas Cantata Time

Believe it or not, but it is once again time to start rehearsal for the Neoga Community Christmas Cantata. It has been such a pleasure to be a part of the Cantata, and it is our hope to have that experience once again. The members of the different churches seem to enjoy bringing their talents together to help bring joy to the season, and the community's response has always been overwhelming. This year we will be celebrating our 10th Cantata and will be performing a number from each of the past programs.

Rehearsals and the performances will be in the sanctuary at the Grace United Methodist Church. The first rehearsal will be on October 4th from 2:00 – 3:00pm. At this rehearsal, we will sing through the complete Cantata and be able to give everyone a copy of the music and CD if wanted. Rehearsal from then on will be every Sunday from 4:00-5:30pm. Kirby Davis will once again be directing the Cantata. If people have questions or would like more information, they can feel free to call him at 895-2429.

The performances of the Cantata are tentatively scheduled for December 12th at 7:00 p.m. and December 13th at 4:00 p.m. A fee of \$5.00 will be asked of each singer to help cover the cost of the booklet.



WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE BUILDING PROGRAM?

With all the activity going on around the church these days, it's sometimes hard to keep track of programs and ministries. God has answered prayers recently in amazing ways, and while this usually means we must change gears and rethink our imperfect plans, His plans are always far better.

If you've wondered about the Building Committee and where we stand with the building program, be assured that the committee is alive, well, and planning. God's awesome gift of the old Elementary School building has allowed us to rethink our strategy at solving the church's long term facilities issues. We can now comfortably house youth activities, the clothing ministry, the community food bank, funeral dinners, and large church fellowship events in the old school building. While we cannot know the long term status of this arrangement, it seems that for the next couple years we will be functioning comfortably in this space.

The Building Committee, the Elders, and the Financial Board have all discussed this situation. Here is a summary of the plan we now hope to pursue, if God allows.

- As presented in the September 20 and 27 Sunday bulletin, the Financial Board has approved the demolition of the old Clothing Ministry house located just east of the church building. The local Fire Board has accepted our offer to use it as a training exercise, pending EPA and insurance approval. If all goes as planned, the house will allow several area fire departments the opportunity to train real world scenarios over several weeks. The final training will include a controlled burn of the house and garage. This method of demolition will cost the church nothing while providing an important service to the community. A vote to approve this demolition will be held on Sunday, October 4.
- Since there seems to be a consensus among the congregation that the old (east) building has outlived its usefulness, we plan to demolish it at some point in the near future. Of course, a congregational vote of approval will be held to okay this action prior to its actual demolition.
- We are currently finalizing a remodeling/new construction plan with Stoltzfus Construction Co. in Mattoon. This plan would enlarge the lobby and worship hall as well as add an attached single story building on the land vacated by the old building. This building will include new nursery and toddler rooms, additional larger restrooms, four classrooms, new offices and reception area, and a children's church area. The final plans will be made available to the congregation as soon as they are ready.
- No cost estimate is yet available for this project, but it is expected to be far less than the projected building project earlier considered. This allows us to use our vacant lots for parking and/or future construction.

Building Program *continued...*

- With a new east building and access to the elementary school, most of our ministry needs will be temporarily met. At that point discussion of building a separate annex across the street can be weighed against the future plans of the Neoga School District. Without access to the school's space, we will need to consider investing in a fellowship hall, youth area, and Clothing Ministry building, but, with God's intervention, we can now delay that decision for a few years.

With these plans in place, we believe we are pursuing a very attainable goal. The Financial Board would like to fully fund this project before breaking ground. This will require sacrificial giving on the part of our people. We ask that you spend time praying over this plan. We want to proceed only in God's will. If we do not seek His wisdom on this, we will fail. PLEASE pray. Then, pray some more. Pray without ceasing. Pray to know God's will. Pray for God's intervention. Pray for God's wisdom. Pray for opportunities for us to bear fruit. Pray for our ministries and staff. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Pray for your enemies. Just pray. A lot. And, when you're done praying, start over again.

The Elders.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE ON OCTOBER 4: Demolishing the Old Clothing Ministry Building

At its September meeting, the Financial Board approved a motion to demolish the old Clothing Ministry building. The house is not currently in use and has many structural issues, as well as mold. The board feels it is in the church's best interest to raze the building and has contacted the Neoga Fire District about using a controlled burn to demolish the building. Alan Baker, Assistant Fire Chief, explained the process to get EPA approval to use the building for training and eventually burning the house and garage down. With approval from the EPA and under the fire districts liability insurance, they will conduct several weeks of training in the building before the controlled burn.

Since we need a congregational vote to affirm the Financial Board's decision, we ask you to prayerfully consider this question and join us in this process following our October 4 worship service.

Wee Worshippers...

We will be busy the rest of the year!

October will have a Halloween Theme (lessons may include A Voice in the Night (Samuel), A Voice in the Day (Saul), Jesus Is Alive, The First Sin (devil wore a disguise of the snake)).

November we will be focusing on lessons of what we are thankful for (family, friends, food, etc).

December we will be building the Nativity one week at a time. *Trivia Question: Who was first to the stable?* Hint: Not Mary & Joseph. We hope to collect info on our Wee Worshippers (not all are completely vocal), and we want to spell names correctly if possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we get organized.



October International Mission

Global Eyeglass Ministry

So People Everywhere Can See

The purpose of Global Eyeglass Ministry is to partner with Christian churches to enhance their global mission trips by providing vision clinic resources such as eyeglasses, equipment, training and support. These resources will enrich their message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing prescription eyewear to those around the world who do not have access to vision clinic services. GEM is a non-profit organization in which 100% of all donations go directly into partnering with Christian churches to enhance their mission impact around the world. As of the summer of 2015, GEM had matched 435 people with prescription eyeglasses and 499 people with readers. If you would like to donate your old glasses to this ministry, please place them in the designated box in the Welcome Center. Your glasses will be processed, taken on a mission trip, and given to someone who would not have received this blessing in any other way! To learn more about GEM or donate online, visit their website at www.globaleyeglassministry.org. Your financial contribution can be mailed to: Global Eyeglass Ministry, PO Box 954, Marysville, WA 98270

Neoga Community Food Pantry

September:

- ♦ 44 families
- ♦ 142 people served
- ♦ 14 volunteers
- ♦ 30 volunteers hours
- ♦ 4 deliveries

Heartland Christian Village Auxiliary is sponsoring a bakeless sale to purchase bed trays that resemble the ones used in hospitals. They will have a tray that opens to allow patients to store small possessions, mirror to comb their hair and ladies to apply make-up. These bed carts will be on wheels so they are easily moved. I will collect money for the bakeless sale on Sunday Oct 4 & 11 in the foyer. Thank you for supporting Heartland Christian Village.

Sheri Coen

Community Clothesline

September 3rd:

27 families
57 individuals

September 17th:

9 Families
24 individuals

Thank you.....

We would like to thank all of you that have helped with any of the recent Community Meals. Volunteers have helped by cooking, serving or donating food. We have also had volunteers partake in a meal with other community members. These meals are about food AND fellowship.

The meals for the rest of the year are as planned.....

October 1st - Soup will be served by the Free Methodist Church. Yum! It would be wonderful for FCC members to come out and join in this meal. There is still a need for a few volunteers from our congregation to help with serving and clean up.

November 5th - This will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal supplied and served in a joint effort by local churches. Each church will bring to the table an assigned course for the meal and help provide turkey.

December 3rd - Local churches will once again come together and celebrate this wonderful time of year in unity. We will have a ham dinner, and various churches will share in the preparation of this meal.

This would be a perfect opportunity to volunteer and build relationships in our community at the same time.

Acts 2:42 "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals, and to prayer"

-Jennifer & Amy, Outreach Ministry

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
4	Jim	Tom	Wilma Burton	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, John Tomlinson	Art Walk Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn	Don Coen Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy
11	Zach	Aubrey	John & Mary Ann Wilson	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Joni McClure, Julie Altman, Chanille Oakley	Doug Moore Paul Lake Monte Page Austin Robinson	Tom Tomlinson Noah Workman Art Walk Chad Walk
18	Matt	Aubrey	Fontella Waddell	<u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryll Gilbert, Penny Hess <u>K-5th</u> : Paul & Amber Lake, Austin Robinson	Harry Starwalt Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn	Don Coen Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy
25	Jim	Tom	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Rory & Paula Gentry <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia	Paul Lake Zach Letizia Doug Moore Monte Page	Austin Robinson Tom Tomlinson Noah Workman Chad Walk

Thank you to our Sunday Ministry Volunteers

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1-5,6-8pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30pm Community Meal 6-7pm Neoga Food Pantry Tyler Crafton	2 Bob Burton Matt Frankie	3
4 Congregational Vote 5pm Prayer Service 6:00pm Ladies' Study 6:00pm Small Group	5	6 Volunteers at Heartland 6:30pm Men's Ministry	7 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30 Small Group 8:30pm College Study Jack & Cheryl Gilbert	8 11am Seniors' Fellowship	9	10 John & Mary Ann Wilson
11 3:30pm Elder's Mtg 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5pm Prayer Service 6:00pm Ladies' Study 6:00pm Small Group Monte & Linda Page	12	13 6:30pm Men's Ministry	14 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30 Small Group 8:30pm College Study	15 1-5pm Community Clothesline	16	17
18 4pm Elder/ Staff Mtg 5pm Prayer Service 6:00pm Ladies' Study 6:00pm Small Group Liz Huffman Doug & Amy Baker Paul & Amber Lake	19	20 6:30pm Men's Ministry Fellowship at Alan Baker's	21 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30 Small Group 8:30pm College Study	22	23	24 Don Scoles
25 Building Fund Sunday 5pm Prayer Service 6:00pm Ladies' Study 6:00pm Small Group Keersta Beccue Katy Frankie Monte Page Maxine Sentel Joe & Pat Briggerman	26 Amy Baker	27 8am Seniors' Breakfast at Depot 6:30pm Men's Ministry	28 9:30am Ladies' Bible Study 6pm 4/14 6:30 Small Group 8:30pm College Study	29 Chelsea Hess	30	31 6-8pm Light Night Chris Hall