

*“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,  
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.”*

*-Colossians 3:17*



## Annual Congregational Meeting:

As many of you know, each November on the second Sunday our church affirms the financial boards proposed budget and affirms elders as well as financial board members. The church bylaws call for an **Annual Congregational meeting**. Other than having affirmation votes the last few years, there has not been a congregational meeting to talk about the direction of the church. The elders decided we should have a meeting to discuss the ministries of the church, the direction we are heading as well as organizational needs. Our **tentative agenda**, in addition to ministry, is to discuss the **building** (primarily the old building and the new addition currently being worked on), **bylaws**, ministries at the Elementary School, **budget** for 2106, and have a Q&A time with staff and elders. The meeting could be a bit long so we plan to eat lunch first. We will have a **signup sheet** for desserts and side dishes. We will have meat and cheese trays for sandwiches. We will have childcare available.

Special note – if you have specific questions for the staff or elders that you would like addressed during the congregational meeting please consider emailing them to [office@fccneoga.org](mailto:office@fccneoga.org) or print them and give them to Jane so that thought can be given to them before the meeting.

All active members who are at least eighteen years old are entitled to a ballot in all elections of officers at congregational meetings.

There are no elders or financial board members scheduled for affirmation at the November 8 vote. The Financial Board is asking for your affirmation of their approved 2016 budget:

Property:	37,068
Children's Ministry	4,500
Evangelism & Relational Ministries	12,204
Office Supplies	7,500
Missions	24,160
Staffing	146,076
Worship	4,100
Student Ministries	8,000
Miscellaneous	15,000
(Emergency 3,000, Building 12,000)	
Total	258,608
Increase from 2015	21,793 (9.2%)
Requires Weekly	4,973



### ***Too Busy To Pray,***

excerpt from *Destined for the Throne* by Paul E. Billheimer

No angel was ever invited to share this high privilege. No archangel was ever invited into the throne room of the universe. Only redeemed humanity. And many of us are too busy - watching television, following sports, hunting and fishing, bathing and boating, engaging in farming or business. We are so busy with the cares and pleasures of this life, trying to keep up with trends in new cars, new homes, new appliances, new furniture, that we do not have time to pray.

Perhaps some may be thinking: Are we to have nothing at all for ourselves? The answer is no. Christ is to be ALL and in all. You are not your own. You are bought with a price (I Corinthians 6:19-20). "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31). If you can buy the new car, the new home, the new furniture, the new gadgets, hold down two jobs, and so on, for the glory of God - well and good. But if we didn't have to have such a high standard of living would we not have more time to pray? If we were not so intoxicated with travel, pleasure, vacations, and recreation, would we not have more time to pray? If we were not so enamored of sports and entertainment, would we not have more time to pray? We have more leisure than ever before - but less time to pray. We are not only cheating God and the world but we are cheating ourselves... We are robbing the world of God's best plan for it and we are limiting our rank in eternity... "And I sought for a man among them... but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30).

#### **CURRENT (3 WEEKS):**

Catrina Bartlett Dye— recovery  
Marge Hall— surgery recovery  
Harold Hall— stroke  
Mel Hood  
Joann Hood— knee recovery  
Jackie Ames— shoulder healing  
Marilyn Walk— shoulder recovery

#### **ONGOING CONCERNS:**

Mexico Trip

#### **COMPASSION CHILDREN:**

Ashley  
Mehari  
Joydeb  
Axel  
Melanie

#### **IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Ivan Cooper— Heartland  
Elsie Phillips— Heartland  
Carolyn Gast— Cumberland Co

#### **FIGHTING CANCER:**

Chuck Bartlett  
Brad Odum  
Dan Letizia  
Bob Thomas  
Megan Buxton  
Sam Bean  
Mel Hood  
Phyllis Kirtner  
Michelle Simpson  
Denny Mefford  
Bob Trefzger

#### **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  
November: Compassion International



## WEE WORSHIP...

*And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.* Mark 5-6

I have listened to the entire Bible in the past few years. I am still amazed when I hear something new. Jesus was in his hometown of Nazareth when he makes this statement. When the people didn't believe in Him, His power was limited (when He was physically there). I wonder if we (I) have ever limited God in our (my) life by unbelief, I hope not. I realized this morning we only have 52 lessons each year to teach **the Wee Worshippers**.

The Lord has blessed me with memories of lessons but I have used most of them. Do you have a special memory of a lesson or Bible story? I am planning 2016

and would love input on suggestions for lessons or themes. My email is [paula@wirelessmikes.com](mailto:paula@wirelessmikes.com), cell 217-294-2137 (texts welcome too), 3511 E 300 North Rd Sigel, IL 62462

(old fashioned letters welcomed too), or wave me down during greeting or before or after the service. God bless you this month as He uses all of us in His kingdom building!

-Paula

## SERVICE MINDED PEOPLE NEEDED!

Do you enjoy meeting new people and making them feel welcome? Are you a somewhat tech savvy person looking to use your gifts for the church? Do you enjoy coordinating volunteers? All of us have gifts and talents that God wants us to use for His glory and for His church. I want to encourage you to get involved serving others. It brings great joy to be used by God where He has gifted you. Check out the service needs below and if you are interested in serving contact the person listed and let them know you are available and desiring to serve.

**FCC Historical Team** – Prayerfully, God will provide us with a new addition to our existing church in the next year or so. We would like to honor the history and ministries of the old church building by documenting memories, stories, and memorabilia of the building before we have the building demolished. If you would like serve as coordinator or member of our historical team please contact Jane Baker at the church office (217-895-3930) for more information or to express interest in serving.

**Tech Team Volunteer** – A member of the tech team is scheduled to run the computer or the sound system once a month or so depending on the number of volunteers available that month. We ask that you come to church about 30 minutes early to prepare for the worship service. Contact Rick Endebrock at [rendebrock@gmail.com](mailto:rendebrock@gmail.com) for more information or to express your interest in being a member of the Tech Team.

**Greeters** – A member of the welcome team is asked to be at church by 9:40 AM on the Sunday they are scheduled to greet people. As a greeter you would be scheduled every 6-8 weeks. Contact Jane Baker at the church office (217-895-3930) for more information or to express interest in serving.

**Welcome Team Coordinator** – We are looking for a person to coordinate the weekly greeters. Contact Jane Baker at the church office (217-895-3930) for more information or to express interest in serving.

**Childcare Coordinator** – We are looking for a person to recruit and coordinate childcare workers. The person responsible would schedule childcare workers and find substitutes when necessary. We currently schedule workers on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Mel Workman (217-246-7775) for more information or to express interest in serving.





## 411 on 4/14

I think it's been a while since I last gave an update on how things are going with 4/14, so I think I should take a few minutes and let you all in on what has been going on.

Starting this August we opened up the old elementary building, hereby known as the 4/14 and Outreach Center, to the entire community and really made an effort to invite youth who have never been a part of church. The first night I can remember going into a side room to pray, thinking that we might get 30 kids, I came out of the room and saw that there were only a few people in the lobby getting signed in. I was a little disappointed, that all our efforts had failed. I was amazed when just a few minutes later, the lobby was completely filled with kids and parents. WE HAD 55 KIDS THAT NIGHT! This was twice what we had been averaging last year. I was a little stunned. Our numbers now fluctuate, anywhere from 45 to 65 kids on a given night.

Those numbers bring some challenges. These challenges I intend to meet head on, by praying and taking them straight to God. I now meet with a few people from 5:15-5:40 to pray for the kids and all the issues that come along with the unchurched teenagers we see every Wednesday. That is really the major test. We have found a way to bring in several students who have never been in church a day in their lives. They come from families that don't go to church, so they don't know what you should and shouldn't do in church.

I need your help: First I need more prayer partners, people who are willing to bring these precious creations of Christ to his throne in prayer. I also need bodies, people who would come out and invest in the lives of kids. Where would you be if someone didn't take the time to pray for and disciple you? Please come along side those of us working with the youth of Neoga and help bring them closer to Christ. *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."* Hebrews 12:1. Please come and be a part of this cloud of witnesses and keep sin from tripping up the kids in our community.

## Fall Carnival Fundraiser!

4/14 will be holding a Fall Carnival fundraiser on **November 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00 pm.** We will have some cool, fun games for kids to play, if the weather holds up we might even get Mel into a dunk tank. We will also have a cake walk and selling hot dogs, hamburgers, Coke and popcorn. The *coup de gras* will be the opportunity to use a sledge hammer to destroy a Cadillac. I don't know about you, but that sounds pretty fun to me.

To pull this off I am asking for some donations: full size candy bars, 2ltrs, Little Debbie snacks, cookies and some awesome cakes. Please also consider coming out to take part in the fun, buy some food and smash a car.



- Matt Davis





## GIVE THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER...

*"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father." Col 3:15-17*

*Then make me  
truly happy  
by agreeing  
wholeheartedly  
with each other,  
loving one another,  
and working together  
with one mind  
and purpose."*

*Phil 2:2*

God has given the community of Neoga so much to be thankful for at the former elementary school. There have been several ministries started, or already in existence, that are utilizing the building. This has been a huge blessing to the community of Neoga.

First is the **4/14 youth group** that meets every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm. Matt leads the community youth, ages 6th-12th grade, in a time of worship. To start the evening the kids have 45 minutes of free time. Here they can play basketball, football, and/or gaga ball. During this time the youth can simply hang out or take advantage of the gaming systems available. After hang out time there is 30 minutes of worship. The youth have been blessed to have the Grace United Methodist praise band to lead them in their time of worship. Last is about 45 minutes of teaching, where the middle school and high school go to their respective rooms and have a time of bible study. What an awesome time for our kids to come together to worship our God.

We are really excited to see God's plan unfolding on the first Thursday of each month in our town of Neoga. We have seen growth in the number of people who have utilized the resources that the community has generously put their energy towards.

The first of these ministries is **the Community Clothesline**. This is a place where people can come and receive, at no cost, new and gently used clothing from infants to adults. They are fortunate to have some retail businesses in Illinois donate new items. Another blessing is a room just for storage, where they don't have to climb stairs. This new space enables everyone to breathe freely...literally. They have a new room to sort donated items and two rooms for people to browse. The Community Clothesline is now wheelchair accessible, and has allowed us to reach more people.

*Continued...*



Again this year First Christian Church has made it easy for you to be a part of the life changing ministry of **Operation Christmas Child**. Simply take home one of the plastic shoeboxes; then using the "How to Pack a Shoebox" guide that's included in the box, fill it up with gifts; complete the boy or girl label and tape it to the top of the box; and return it to church by **Sunday, November 22!** For these 50 boxes, the shipping has already been paid! Of course you are still welcome to bring your own box. Just pick up a brochure and follow those instructions. And most importantly, pray for this ministry and the sweet children who will receive your gift.



Please be a part of sharing the gospel message with the children of the world!



*Give Thanks continued...*

Another huge blessing is the expanded space for the **Neoga Community Food Pantry**. Compared to the last space it has more than doubled in size. Now they have plenty of room for people to come in and "shop". In addition volunteers are able to pack boxes and organize without bumping into each other. Plus, those who make use of the pantry are now able to wait in a warm space and enjoy food and fellowship.

The last Thursday ministry is the **community meal**. This fellowship has really brought the other ministries and the community together. The meal provides time for local ministers to sit, talk, and pray with people of Neoga. We have seen the fellowship time during the meals increase and also bring smiles to people's faces.

Another outreach is the **Backpack ministry**. This ministry enables kids to have food over the weekend while not at school. Food is delivered to the school and put in student's backpacks by a school employee so that it is done with as much privacy as possible.

We have heard from a young student, "that this is the food his mom orders from school." This was told to us with a smile on his face. This new space has enabled the ministry to set up shelves for storage and not have to pack up their supplies weekly.

The last and newest ministry is the **after school program**. This was started to help alleviate the crunch that some parents felt with the earlier school dismissal this year. They have put to use the cafeteria, gym, playground, and two of the classrooms. They have snack, play time, and homework assistance. The school has graciously agreed to help with transportation to help families with this new change.

Please pray for these ministries and seek God's guidance on how you can get involved.







## Travel With The Seniors

**Friday November 20, 2015: Senior Day At The Festival of Trees sponsored by The Baby Fold**  
*Seniors be sure you have this event marked on your calendar; also friends are welcomed. To assure yourself a seat in the Van, please sign-up in the Fellowship Center*

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 the 2015 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. There is some walking so be sure and put on comfortable shoes. 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, and 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.

### **Thursday, January 14, 2016 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

Senior's will meet at FCC and once again travel to the Holy Land (via DVD) with Dr. Jack Hayford. Following our worship time we will enjoy a time of fellowship and lunch with the staff. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided; each person should bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share. More details regarding “our travel” will be provided later.



*Our Veterans will be honored on Sunday, November 8*

*We are asking your help updating the **church directory** so our congregation can have an updated list for the Christmas Season. Your church family would love to encourage you so please include your birthdays and anniversaries.*

*Our current directory will be available to update Sunday, Nov 1, 8 & 15 so you will have updated copy by Sunday, November 29.*



## Community Clothesline

Oct.1st: 35 Families and 98 Individuals  
Oct.15th: 13 Families and 34 individuals

## Neoga Community Food Pantry

40 families; 123 people  
12 volunteers; 25 volunteer hours  
5 deliveries

Nov: green beans; Dec : soap

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The study of Jonah concludes the first week of November. We will take a one week break before we begin a new three week study also led by Priscilla Shirer.

#### SEED by Priscilla Shirer

*"Plant a little seed. Grow a big faith."*

This three week unique Bible study is designed to lead each person back to personal meditation, to prayerful observation and to listen to God's spirit as He speaks to us through the scriptures. At each session we will read a short article, listen to Priscilla as she relays a distinct spiritual principle, briefly discuss the video and close with prayer. Themes for the three week study are "Forgotten," "Enough," and "Control." During the week each person will study each day, one of the scriptures that complements the weekly theme.

All ladies are invited to participate in this three week study that will begin the week of November 15, 2015 and conclude the week of December 6, 2015. Note, we will not meet the week of November 22, 2015. This study will be offered at 6:00 pm on Sunday as well as at 9:30 am on Wednesday.

This study is designed to help each of us revitalize our relationship with the Lord and renew our interest for His Word. To assure that we have a book for you, please sign-up in the Fellowship Center.

### MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Our mission spotlighted this month is Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, the organization has helped meet the need of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of showing God's love through His son, Jesus Christ.

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 19:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. Jesus told his hearer, "GO AND DO LIKEWISE." We believe in following the example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.

We are familiar with Samaritan's Purse, as each year during the Christmas season we purchase item to be sent to children somewhere the world who otherwise would not receive any gifts. Last year we sent a total of 88 boxes. This year our challenge is to increase the total to 110. Keep up the good work.

**"GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU THIS SEASON."**

Samaritan's Purse  
P O Box 3000  
Boone, NC 28697



*Uniting in prayer for the persecuted church, in the spirit of oneness  
that Christ commanded, "For, if one suffers, we all suffer."*



For more information:

[www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org) (Int'l Day of prayer website)

[www.persecution.org](http://www.persecution.org) (Voice of the Martyrs)

[www.opendoorusa.org](http://www.opendoorusa.org) (Open Doors serving persecuted Christians worldwide)

## Operation Sleighbell



(founder Rick Smith)

31 years of service

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.

- ♦ 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.





## *November Volunteers...*

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
1	Zach	Tom	Joann Miller	<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
8	Zach	Aubrey	Tom & Cathy Tomlinson	<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
15	Zach	Aubrey	Wilma Burton	<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
22	Matt	Tom	John & Mary Ann Wilson	<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
29	Matt	Tom	Fontella Waddell	5th Sunday Volunteers	Art Walk Alan Baker Doug Baker Barry Conn	Don Coen Dave Coen Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy




## *Community Thanksgiving Service*



*Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 pm*  
*First Christian Church of Neoga*

*Speaker: Todd Krost, GUMC Minister*





# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Time Change: Fall Back International Day of Prayer For Persecuted Church  5pm Prayer Service 6pm Ladies Bible Study Small Group	<b>2</b>  Rick & Leslie Endebrock	<b>3</b> Volunteers at Heartland 6:30pm Men's Group	<b>4</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Small Group Stacey Morris	<b>5</b> 1-7:30pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30pm Community Thanksgiving Meal 6-7pm Neoga Food Pantry Aleta Stivers	<b>6</b> Miles Endebrock	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Veterans' Recognition Congregational Meeting  5pm Prayer Service 6pm Small Group	<b>9</b> Rick & Leslie Endebrock	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Men's Group  Evan Fritcher Greg Oakley	<b>11</b> 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Small Group Kristi Fritts Gracie Kenworthy	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am-2pm Fall Carnival Youth Fundraiser  Austin Robinson
<b>15</b> 3pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Staff & Elder Mtg 5pm Prayer Service 6pm Ladies Bible Study	<b>16</b> Katie Hakman	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Men's Fellowship	<b>18</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 5:15 4/14 Prayer 6pm 4/14 6:30pm Small Group 8:30pm College Small Group	<b>19</b> 1-5pm Community Clothesline	<b>20</b> 8:30am Seniors' Trip to Festival of Trees	<b>21</b> Steve Hess
<b>22</b> 3:30pm Elders' Mtg 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5pm Prayer Service Jerry Krueger	<b>23</b> Rick Endebrock Paige Schwindt Mel Workman	<b>24</b> 7pm Community Thanksgiving Service Don Coen Bill Fritcher	<b>25</b> Walt & Julie Altman	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Aubrey & Pam Storm
<b>29</b> Building Fund Sunday 5pm Prayer Service 6pm Ladies Bible Study Chloe Fritcher Madelynn Frankie Annabelle Frankie	<b>30</b>					