



THE EVANGEL

SEPTEMBER 2014 VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9

**BACK**   
**SCHOOL**

*Starting the Year Off Right*





# Worship *through prayer*

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

God opening doors in schools  
Gracie Kenworthy– *broken finger*  
Brett Williamson– *healing*  
Thereas Tackitt– *4-wheeler accident*  
Daniel Schlieff  
Chris Sentency– *heart surgery*  
Fran Jennings  
Cheryl & Joe Stephen– *sell home*  
Catrina & Cody Dye– *sell home*

## **ONGOING CONCERNS:**

LCU President search  
Don Scoles  
Harry Starwalt

## **FIGHTING CANCER:**

Stacey Morris  
Ann Conn  
Betty Zumbahlen  
Duane Allbaugh  
Kirk Zuhone  
Clint Mausehund  
Ronnie Juenger  
Bob Trefzger

## **IN CARE FACILITIES:**

Charles Latch– Heartland  
Don Scoles– Douglas  
Elsie Phillips– Heartland  
Carolyn Gast– Cumberland Co  
Allene Young– Harmony Center

## **IN THE MILITARY:**

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

## **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:**

### Equip our church:

Prayer  
Koinonia  
Humble servants...  
both Chiefs & Indians

Funds  
Facilities

### Ministries:

Elders & Deacons  
Children's  
Youth  
College/ Young Adult  
Senior  
Praise/ Tech Team  
Community Clothesline  
Small Groups, Bible Studies,  
Sunday School  
Missions Team & Missions:  
Neoga Community Food Pantry,  
Heartland Christian Village, Oblong Christian  
Children's Home, Christian Campus House,  
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp  
Transportation needs



## SENIORS...

### September 4, 2014

Seniors will attend the Oil Belt Christian Service Camp's 17th Annual Senior Adult Day. If you forgot to sign-up but would like to attend, see Carolyn Bartlett or Jane Baker.

### October 3, 2014 (Friday)

We will leave the church at 8:30 a.m. and travel to Bloomington, IL. While in Bloomington we will tour the **David Davis Mansion** and eat our noon meal at Panera Bread Co. before returning to Neoga, arriving home around 3:30 pm. Judge David Davis was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln whom he came to know during Lincoln's frequent visits to Bloomington as a Circuit Court lawyer. The mansion was built after Lincoln's death but serves as a window into life in the late 1800's. The home and the grounds are beautifully maintained. There are some steps included in the tour. While there is no charge for the tour, visitors are encouraged to give a \$4.00 donation. To help us plan **please sign up in the Welcome Center by September 28, 2014.**

**November 13, 2014** (11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.) All Seniors are invited to share in the Senior Fellowship & Luncheon. **Celebrate The Harvest** will be our theme and Brother Bob Potter will bring us our devotion. More details later.

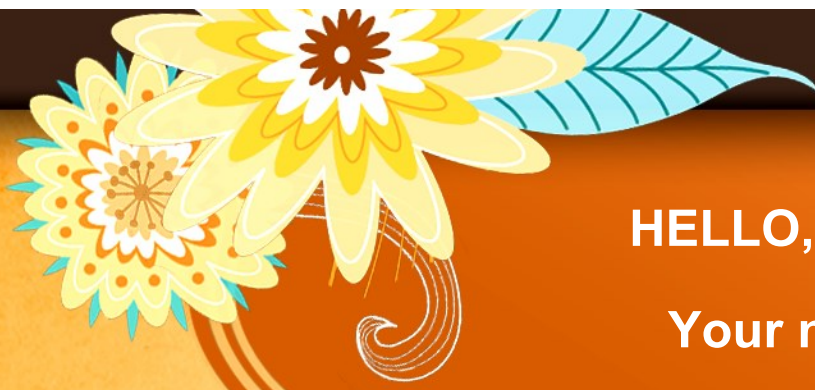


## Ladies...

September 3 (9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) or September 7 (6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) **Ladies Bible Study** begins the study of James: Mercy Triumphs with Beth Moore. If you forgot to sign up at the Welcome Center, it is not too late but you might have to wait on your book.

Mark your calendar for **Ladies Salad Supper** on Sunday, November 9, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. More details later.





HELLO, this is MATT DAVIS

Your new YOUTH MINISTER.

*Contact me:*

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217-821-9437

*Editor's Note:*



The flowers do not reflect the opinion or views of the author.

I just wanted to take a moment and share a little bit about me and why I want to be your youth minister.

I am a preacher's kid and moved around a lot as a kid, we lived in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska and Indiana. While growing up I had the great opportunity to get to know Jesus at an early age. This knowledge led me to have a passion for Jesus and teaching others about Him. I took this passion to Lincoln Christian University after graduating high school. I was studying to become a youth minister but realized after a few years that I wasn't quite ready for the responsibility, I just wasn't mature enough. I decided to take my passion for teaching and put it to use in the public school setting. I have spent the past 9 years teaching in the Indianapolis area, two years as a special ed. teacher and 7 years teaching social studies in Indianapolis Public Schools. Over the past few years God has used some interesting circumstances to draw me closer to Him. My family and I have gone through some times of trial and during those times we had no one to lean on but Jesus, so we have grown so much in our love and passion for Him and his mission. I have found that as my knowledge of Jesus has grown, He is all I want to teach people. Social studies is still of interest to me but it pales in comparison to Jesus and the mercy and grace He gave us on the cross. God has instilled in me a strong desire to see people come to a saving

knowledge of Jesus and grow deeply in their faith. I take seriously what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28, we are to baptize AND teach them to obey.

I think that youth ministry is important to a growing and vibrant church. Studies show us that today less than 1% of young adults have a biblical world view. Youth need a safe haven to express doubts, ask questions and learn more about the most important thing in their lives, Jesus and His work for them on the cross. Many kids aren't getting that, this is why 75% of young Christians leave the church after high school. I believe this is because they haven't been properly prepared by their churches and youth ministries. God has instilled a passion in me to help grow students in their knowledge and faith in Jesus, to prepare them for the world that is going to attack and oppress them. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always be prepared to give a defense of our faith, I believe that this the job God has called me to, preparing youth to be able to give a defense to THEIR faith, not just repeating answers they have heard, that they don't truly believe, but giving a defense to the faith that they possess.


Please feel free to contact me, I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. Have a blessed day!

# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2 Volunteers at Heartland 6:30pm Men Stepping Up	3 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 8:30pm College Small Gr	4 Senior Adult Rally at Oil Belt 1-5, 6-8pm Community Clothesline Martha Wilson	5 Joann Miller	6
7 <b>Wee Worship Special during worship</b> 4:00pm Elders' Mtg 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study Kyrah Oakley, Denise Coen, Amanda Baker	8 7pm Open AA Mtg	9 6:30pm Men Stepping Up Bob Schwindt	10 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 8:30pm College Small Gr	11 Trenton Moore	12 5-7pm Harvest Festival at Heartland CV Cathy Rennels Larry Wilson Doug & Pam Moore	13 Penny Hess
14 4:00pm Financial Board Mtg 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	15 7pm Open AA Mtg Phyllis Scales Mary Ann Wilson Olive Stiebner	16 6:30pm Men Stepping Up	17 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 8:30pm College Small Gr Reggie & Cathy Rennels	18 9am-Noon Community Clothesline Dallas Peadro	19	20
21 4:00pm Elders' / Staff Mtg 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study TBA See you at the poll rally	22 7pm Open AA Mtg	23 6:30pm Men Stepping Up	24 See You at the Pole 9:15am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 8:30pm College Small Gr	25 Doug Moore	26	27 Jim Wilson
28 5:30pm Prayer 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study	29 7pm Open AA Mtg	30 6:30pm Men Stepping Up				



# Let's BE the church!



As you are reading this, we are about to or have just finished a sermon series about "The Church" or community...

The goal of the series was to highlight the biblical basis for stronger relationships in the church and particularly to highlight the need to participate in small groups. The first Christians met in homes most frequently although they sometimes met in the temple courts or open air spaces. They were tight knit groups of close friends as opposed to the loose knit group of strangers we have become...

Over the course of the series we addressed the following items:

1. *What is the church?*

It is a local assembly of Christ's followers, it is not a building.

2. *What is the churches mission?*

To make disciples (followers). The mission was given to the Apostles just before Christ's ascension, spelled out in Matthew 28 and Luke 24 among others...

3. *What were the disciplines that uniquely defined the church?*

Using Acts 2:42 as a basis we learned that the first century Christians were DEVOTED to the following:

- The Apostles Teaching. This means they were devoted to WHAT the apostles taught and practiced it! Not merely listeners of the word.

- Fellowship. This means sharing with those in need, being hospitable, bearing one another's burdens and encouraging each other. It meant being self-less, humble, gentle, looking out for others interests and being unified in Spirit.



- Breaking bread and/or The Lord's Supper. They shared meals with one another and would remember the Lord together as they practiced his command to eat the bread, which represented his broken body and the cup which represents his shed blood.

- Prayer. Prayer is what makes all other disciplines of the Christian life a vital reality, prayer makes all service, fellowship, and shared meals a spiritual activity. Prayer, when woven into the fabric of our daily lives as Christians, brings life, fruit, and blessing...

4. *One of the primary responsibilities Christ gave his church (Acts 1:8)?*

Jesus said, "And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..."


The Apostle Paul was deeply convicted about this responsibility - Acts 20:24 - But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

5. *Our final message was on the abilities the Holy Spirit gives to accomplish the mission and to fulfill the responsibilities of the church?*

The gifts he gives are personal (we all get them, at least one) and corporate (all gifts given are a commonly held to be used to benefit all).

My hope and prayer is that this series of messages has impacted your desire for deeper, more fulfilling, relationships within the church and with Christ. We are beginning a new small group ministry this fall and this series has been designed to be a catalyst.

Remember the first century church didn't ask people to join the church... They asked them to BE the church! Let's BE the church!



New OPEN AA Meeting  
Starting September 8, 2014  
Every Monday at 7:00 pm

First Christian Church  
of Neoga



We are currently organizing this year's  
**College Student Encouragement Ministry.**

Each month a member of this team prays for a college student and encourages them with a card or letter. If you would like to be an Encourager, please contact Marian Lindley. If you know of a college student who should be included, please give their name to Linda Baker or the church office. This is such an important time in the lives of these students. Let's continue to show them the love of their Christian family.

	<b>Video</b>	<b>Audio</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Servers</b>
7	Tom	Aubrey	John & Mary Ann Wilson	Sara & Kaylie Groves	Barry Conn Art Walk Chad Walk Jay Miller	Harry Starwalt Zach Letizia Monte Page Alan Baker
14	Michael	Aubrey	Wilma Burton	Pam Storm Joann Miller	Jim Baker Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen	Doug Baker Jack Gilbert Larry Moore Bill Kenworthy
21	Matt	Brianna	Pam & Aubrey Storm	Cathy & Mahayla Oakley	Paul Lake Roger Banks Doug Moore Reggie Rennels	Austin Robinson Randy Rennels Barry Conn Art Walk
28	Jim	Tom	Fontella Waddell	Linda Baker Reeni Letizia	Chad Walk Harry Starwalt Zach Letizia Dave Coen	Monte Page Alan Baker Michael Baker Don Coen

Wee Worship: Paula Gentry