

THE EVANGEL

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NEOGA

JANUARY 2015



SWEET TO THE SOUL

let us
run with

PERSEVERANCE

the race

marked
out for us

Hebrews 12:2

2 3 4 5 6 7

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Ivan Cooper– heart
Paul Frailey– Heart surgery 12/29
Chris Davis– tonsillectomy 12/30
Family of Jerry Brazelton
(George’s brother)
Kellee Beccue– gall bladder
Georgia Figgins
Lowell Smith– heart
Michelle Simpson– cancer
Terry Miller (not FCC)- cancer
Marilyn Smyser– recovery
Betty Latch– recovery

ONGOING CONCERNS:

Chris Byford– pancreatic cancer
Paul Frailey
Joann Hood– heart
Caitlin Scholl– accident recovery
Don Scoles
Harry Starwalt

FIGHTING CANCER:

Chuck Bartlett
Michelle Simpson
Terry Miller (not FCC)
Donna Lake
Sean Whetsell
Edith Winberg
Betty Zumbahlen
Kirk Zuhone
Clint Mausehund
Bob Trefzger

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Betty Latch– Heartland
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

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley
Mehari
Joydeb
Axel

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Equip our church:
Prayer
Koinonia
Humble servants
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

*** If you would like to be added to our church text or phone prayer chain, please contact Jane Baker at 895-3930 or office@fcneoga.org

Enthusiasm is more active than faith, though enthusiasm cannot remove mountains nor call into action any of the omnipotent forces which faith can command. Activity is often at the expense of more solid, useful elements, and generally to the total neglect of prayer. To be too busy with God’s work to commune with God, to be busy with doing church work without taking time to talk to God about His work, is the highway to backsliding, and many people have walked therein to the hurt of their immortal souls.

E.M. Bounds

..Always pray
and never
give up. Luke 18:1





*Small Groups
Returning..*

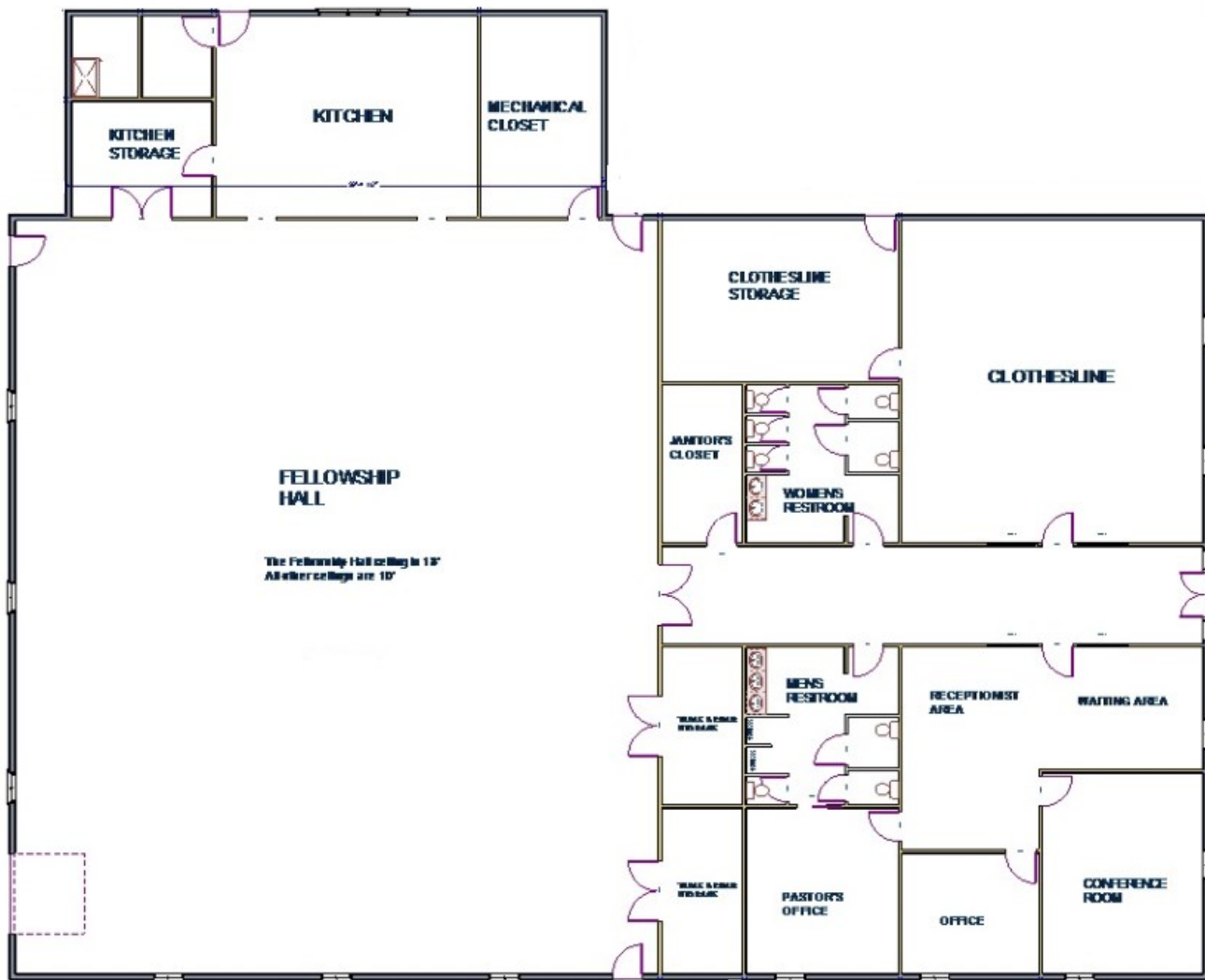
JESUS WAS IN A SMALL GROUP. I'M JUST SAYIN'...

**Small Group Kick-Off Party Saturday Evening
January 10, 5:00 pm for all three small groups
at the church. More details next week.**

The time for fellowship and fun is at hand again! Last fall we began a small groups ministry in order to provide opportunities our church to grow in fellowship and be like the first century church. The early church prayed together, studied together, ate together and fellowshiped together. God wants us to do the same. His plan for the church and for each of us is the same as it was in the early days of Christianity.

Small groups will be starting again on January 18. Two Sunday night groups will meet at the church (one led by Mel and the other Matt Davis). A Wednesday night group will be hosted at Kirby and Angie's. All groups will meet from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Childcare will be available at the church from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Sunday night and 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm on Wednesday night.

There will be a sign up sheet at the welcome center.



| Video | Audio | Greeters | Children's Ministry | Communion | Servers |
|-------|-------|------------------------|--|--|--|
| 4 | TBA | Harry & Judy Starwalt | <u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, Michael Baker, Kristen Albin | Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels Barry Conn Art Walk | Chad Walk Harry Starwalt Zack Letizia Alan Baker |
| 11 | | Fontella Waddell | <u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Paula & Rory Gentry, Julie Altman | Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen Doug Baker | Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake Roger Banks |
| 18 | | 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, Amia Workman | Austin Robinson Doug Moore Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels | Barry Conn Art Walk Chad Walk Harry Starwalt |
| 25 | | John & Mary Ann Wilson | <u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Jacob & Brianna Dow <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia, Megan Robinson | Alan Baker Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen | Doug Baker Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake |

Senior's Ministry...

Second Thursday in January and February 2015 (11 am to 1pm) Mark your 2015 calendars now and plan to enjoy the worship, fellowship, and lunch with seniors of all ages.

During our worship time the Seniors will put their traveling shoes on and journey to the Holy Land with Dr. Jack Hayford. God's Word comes to life as we follow in Christ's footsteps.

Meat and drinks and table service will be provided; each

Building/ Facilities Update...

As many of you know a great deal of time, effort and prayer has been given to our facilities over the last year or more. The result from the planning and praying is moving along even though it is a bit slow.

This past Spring/Summer the decision was made by the elders and financial board to investigate the costs to build a multi-purpose facility in the empty lot next to the Clothesline house (corner of Locust and 6th). The layout for the facility has been shared with Longhorn and AKRA builders to use in drafting a proposal. I expect to receive those proposals in early January.

The rough drawing (to the left) includes a kitchen that is comparable in size to the new one at the Methodist church, a fellowship hall with capacity around 300, office space and space for the Clothesline ministry. The overall size of the building is roughly 120 X 76 or about 9,000 square feet. Each of these new spaces in the multi-purpose building are needed for the growth and health of our ministries, both in ministry to our church family and outreach to the community.

Once we have an approved proposal and the financial means we will build the new facility (phase 1) and then address the old church building (phase 2). Once the old church is removed, we will remodel our existing building and open up the foyer/welcome center and build new childcare/nursery rooms (phase 3).

In the near future, I hope to have a small committee to plan our fundraising efforts. More will be shared as we move forward.

Please spend time praying about our facilities. We trust God to supply our needs including the space to serve and minister.

Ladies Bible Study

Home IS Where Your Mother-in Law Lives!

Our study begins
Sunday, Jan. 4th at 6:30 pm
or Wed., Jan. 7th at 9:30 am

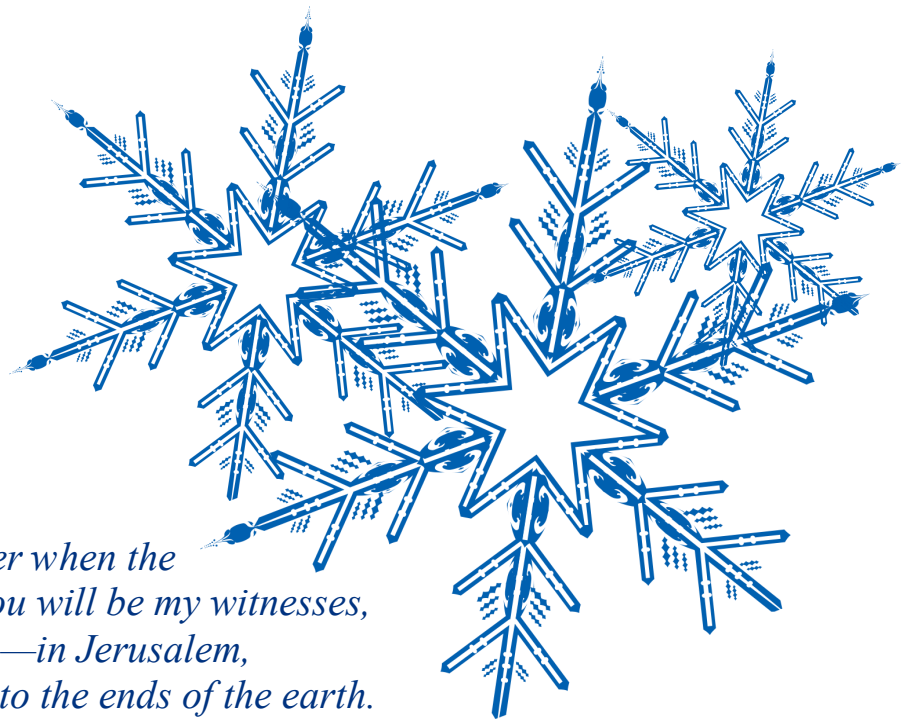
Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming, love, and divine legacy comes alive as we explore the Book of Ruth. The study includes daily studies, recipes, and original songs from Kelly Minter.



Go and make disciples

Missions

Updates...



Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

This has been the goal of the Missions Committee for the past year – to spread God’s Word in our town, our region, and throughout the world. The missions budget has locally supported Heartland Christian Village and the Neoga Community Food Pantry with a monthly gift. An additional year end gift was given to Heartland to help with their concrete project. In our area, we have given a monthly donation to Oblong Christian Children’s Home, EIU Christian Campus House, and Oil Belt Christian Service Camp.

Oil Belt was also given a year end donation to help with the purchase of their new building. We have financially contributed to a variety of international missions through several special donations and projects. In June, VBS materials for the mission trip were purchased and transported to Belize. This fall, 50 shoeboxes were purchased for Operation Christmas Child. The shipping for these gifts was also paid. In addition, materials were purchased through Samaritan’s Purse for 93 children to participate in “The Greatest Journey”, a follow-up discipleship program to Operation Christmas Child that helps children learn more about Jesus. (First Christian Church donated a total of 93 shoebox gifts.) And in the fall, at least three children found monthly sponsors through Compassion, International’s Release 3 Campaign.

Please continue to keep these mission projects in your prayers!

COMMUNITY CLOTHESLINE

December 4th

18 Families and 45 Individuals

December 18th

11 Families and 37 Individuals

The Grace United Methodist Church donated the diapers they had left over from their diaper give away.

We were able to help 2 moms with baby items this month. We were able to provide them with diapers, baby swings, bouncy seats, baby cribs and a dresser.

We will not be open January 1st since it is a holiday. We will be open January 15th from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

December :

37 families; 108 people served

3 Deliveries

14 Volunteers; 25 2/3 hours

January– pork n beans

February– soap

Our Job as Christians...

In Luke chapter 10 Jesus is asked by an expert in the law “What must a person do to be saved?” Jesus answered in the typical Jewish teaching method: he answered with a question. “What does the law of Moses say?” Jesus knows the answer, He just wants this man to think through the answer himself. The man’s answer is spot on. “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” We know that his answer is correct because Jesus tells us so. “Right!” Jesus told him. “Do this and you will live!”

This is our job as Christians, we are to love God and love man. Four words and fourteen letters. Many people look at this and say that there must be more than just this. I mean there are 10 commandments and many teachers of the law created a vast number of regulations to help people understand and follow these ten commandments. But when we take the time to boil them all down they fit into one of these categories: LOVE GOD or LOVE MAN. Now, I am not saying that all laws and regulations are not necessary, because they are meant to help us understand how to LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN.

Looking forward to 2015 the Youth Group will be spending our time focusing on understanding the Old Testament, looking through the goggles of LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN. Today we throw a lot

of regulations and restrictions at our youth, but don’t explain why. The rule “Don’t go to an R rated movie” is a great rule, but without the knowledge of WHY many people won’t follow it. It is my desire, to help lead our youth to understanding how their decisions fall under LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN, and how to apply these laws of God to all aspects of their lives. If I understand that my job is life is to LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN I won’t worry about murder or theft or lying, because I know that these actions don’t show love to my fellow man.

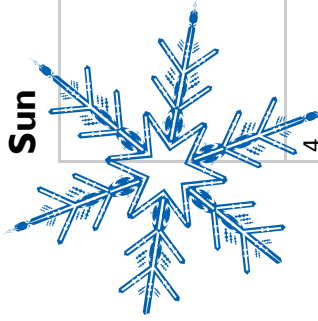
From this point forward I will be referring to Wednesday Night Youth Group as 4:14. With everything we do let us LOVE GOD, LOVE MAN.

-Matt



Lone Star in Effingham is providing a **Dine & Donate** to support the Neoga Veteran's Memorial Park on **Thursday, January 15**, 11am-10pm. If you present a flyer, 15% of full priced menu items will be donated. See Alan Baker for a flyer.

January 2015



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4 4pm Elders' Mtg 5:30pm Church Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Ruth Study Jennifer Davis | 5 7 pm Open AA | 6 Volunteers at Heartland | 7 9:30am Ruth Study 6:30pm 4:14 (Jr/Sr Hi Youth Group) Jack Gilbert | 8 Elsie Phillips | 9 Mildred Gentry Kim Varner | 10 5pm Small Groups Kick Off!! |
| 11 4pm Financial Board Mtg 5:30pm Church Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Ruth Study Konalee Beccue | 12 7 pm Open AA | 13 | 14 9:30am Ruth Study 6:30pm 4:14 | 15 9am-8pm Community Clothesline | 16 | 23 24 |
| 18 4pm Elders'/Staff Mtg 5:30pm Church Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Small Groups No Ruth Study Alex Gentry Harry Starwalt | 19 7 pm Open AA | 20 | 21 No Ruth Study 6:30pm 4:14 Small Group | 22 | 23 | 30 31 |
| 25 5:30pm Church Prayer Mtg 6:30pm Ruth Study Small Groups | 26 7 pm Open AA | 27 | 28 9:30am Ruth Study 6:30pm 4:14 Small Group Lydia Frankie | 29 Emily Coen Linda Page | 30 Keera Beccue Betty Latch | 31 Cheryll Gilbert |

