

THE EVANGEL

MARCH 2015




“But forget all that—

it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.
For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

Isaiah 43:18-19a



Revive us again;
Fill each heart with Thy love;
May each soul be rekindled
With fire from above.

Prayer *focus*

E.M. Bounds, Purpose in Prayer, Exert from Chapter 10

Christ spake a parable to this end, that men ought always to pray and not faint. The parable of the importunate widow teaches the difficulties in praying, how they are to be surmounted, and the happy results which follow from valorous praying. Difficulties will always obstruct the way to the closet as long as it remains true,

“That Satan trembles when he sees ...The weakest saint upon his knees.”

Courageous faith is made stronger and purer by mastering difficulties. These difficulties but couch the eye of faith to the glorious prize which is to be won by the successful wrestler in prayer. Men must not faint in the contest of prayer, but to this high and holy work they must give themselves, defying the difficulties in the way, and experience more than an angel’s happiness in the results. Luther said: “To have prayed well is to have **studied** well.” More than that, to have prayed well is to have **fought** well. To have prayed well is to have **lived** well. To pray well is to **die** well.

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Doris Goodson

3/7 Marilyn Rennels Memorial

3/24 All church fast

3/27-29 Church Events

Tom Jewel—migraines

Betty Latch— blood clots

Wanda Helm— stroke

ONGOING CONCERNS:

Ivan Cooper

Doug Baker

CIY trips:

Believe (Middle school) March 27-28

Move (HS) June 8-12

Mission Indy (Middles School-Adult)

July 12-18

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Phyllis Scoles— Heartland

Elsie Phillips— Heartland

Carolyn Gast— Cumberland Co

Allene Young— Harmony Center

FIGHTING CANCER:

Chuck Bartlett

Donna Lake

Michelle Simpson

Shawn Whetsell

Edith Winberg

Betty Zumbahlen

Kirk Zuhone

Clint Mausehund

Bob Trefzger

IN THE MILITARY:

Shane Gephardt

Tyler Briggerman— Navy

Wes Letizia— Air Force

Alicia & Steve Tordoff—

Army Reserve, baby in March

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley

Mehari

Joydeb

Axel

Melanie

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Ministries:

Elders & Deacons

Children's

Youth

College/ Young Adult

Senior

Praise/ Tech Team

Community Clothesline

Small Groups, Bible Studies,

Sunday School

Outreach/ Benevolence

Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry

Heartland Christian Village

Oblong Christian Children’s Home

Christian Campus House

Oil Belt Christian Service Camp

Monthly International Missions:

March— Rapha House

March 24...

Don't start reading this. No, really don't start reading this, unless you are willing to read the whole thing. I want everyone reading this to commit to actually reading the entire thing and considering what it has to say. Some of you are turning away right now screaming "Run away, Run away". Others of you are so curious that you couldn't put this down now even if your hair was on fire. (Something I never have to worry about). If you are brave, if you have taken God's advice to Job in chapter 38 (KJV) and "girded up thy loins like a man" then please read on . . .

Have you taken a look at the March calendar yet? Wow it is full, not to mention the last weekend. There are a lot of things going on this month, here at FCC Neoga; The Weekend to Remember Marriage Retreat, Middle School CIY trip to Springfield and Youth Sunday. With all that is going on the weekend of March 27-29 we are asking the people of FCC Neoga to take part in a time of fasting and prayer.

Some of you just read the word fasting and decided that you should have taken my warning at the onset to stop reading, too late now. Fasting

is hard, I know, but is something we are called to do. Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:17 "And *WHEN* you fast. . . "Jesus doesn't say and "if" you fast, He tells us "when" you fast. So we can see here that He expects us to do it.

What is fasting, what does it look like? Well, Jesus, Moses and Elijah all fasted from everything; food and water for 40 days. I am not asking you to do that. I am asking you to give up "something" that you like. This could be fasting for 24 hours from eating, watching T.V., anything that you enjoy. You are to give that up for a period of time and focus that time on praying for God to work in a mighty way March 27-29. We want to step away from this weekend and see marriages strengthened and restored, youth making a deeper commitment to God and to see God working through the lives of our youth.

We, the ministers and elders, are asking everyone to fast and pray on Tuesday, March 24th. Pay attention because "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results". (James 5:16)

For more information on fasting see:
<http://christianity.about.com/od/whatdoesthebiblesay/a/spiritualfasting.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVawgv8gA3o>
(this is a humorous take on what fasting should NOT look like)
-Matt Davis



Sunday March 29th the youth group (4/14) is taking over worship, needless to say things are going to be different. We have decided that we want to show you a little bit of what goes on Wednesday nights for 4/14. The students are going to take over many of the responsibilities held by adults; greeting, leading singing, handing out communion, collecting offering and preaching.

Please be in prayer for the youth as they prepare to lead in many unfamiliar areas. And please be in prayer for Anthony Miah as he has stepped forward and is eagerly anticipating bringing God's word to us.

We thank you for your patience, prayers and support.

Love God, love man!

International Missions

Spotlight On...Rapha House

For 2015, the missions committee is modifying our approach to international missions. The original goal of the committee was to be

“witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Our church will continue to provide monthly financial support to our local (Jerusalem) and regional (Judea and Samaria) organizations, and put a “spotlight” on a different international group each month (the ends of the earth).

The monthly international organization will receive our designated international missions money for the month and we will also be collecting special items for some groups. We hope that each organization will be covered with our prayers! We are so blessed that it is often easy to forget how much adversity our brothers and sisters around the world face. By highlighting very worthy causes, we hope to raise awareness about a multitude of issues and organizations that provide assistance. The “spotlight” ministries were chosen based off of criteria we found in the following verses below. Each of these organizations provides food, water,

clothing, medical services, freedom for imprisoned or enslaved, and/or evangelism and spiritual development.

“For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’” - Matthew 25:35-40

“But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?” -Romans 10:14-15

Our March spotlight is **Rapha House**. Rapha House is “committed to ending the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children,” primarily girls. They achieve this through four main components: rescue, shelter and safehouses, equipping and vocational training, and reintegration into society. Currently, Rapha House has centers in Cambodia (fully operating) and Haiti (operating in a rented facility), and is fundraising to open a new center in Thailand. One hundred new spots will become available for girls when the safehouses are completed in Haiti and Thailand. The safehouses provide physical and emotional support through food, clothing, shelter, medical and dental care, social services, general education, and aggressive judicial advocacy. You can make a difference for the girls at Rapha House by sending donations to:

Rapha House
PO Box 1569
Joplin, MO 64802

Or make electronic donations at <https://www.raphahouse.org/take-action/donate>

You can even purchase items handcrafted by the Rapha House girls from the Freedom Store at: <http://www.raphahouse.org/take-action/freedom-store>

- Missions Committee



Mission Indy was born out of Chapel Rock Christian Church with a desire to help teens take the skills and motivations learned and developed on both the foreign and domestic mission fields, and put them into action at home, in their own cities. The goal was part of the plan to help students see the mission of God as a lifestyle rather than a trip.

This summer we are planning on taking a trip to Indianapolis to take part in Mission Indy. **It is my prayer that it not just be a youth trip but a church trip. I want our youth to see and work alongside adults.** Students learn so much just from watching the way others do things. How many of you have been teaching someone how to drive and had them say "well, you don't do that!"? They learn, by watching. I want our students to learn how to serve God and others by watching us do it together. The dates for the trip are July 12-18. I need to know soon so that I can reserve spots for us. Do not worry about cost; God will be providing funds through our fundraising efforts. Please prayerfully consider teaming up with our youth to serve the Lord.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

-Ephesians 4:12 (nlt)

Outreach Ministry

You may have noticed over the last few months that Amy Baker and I (Jennifer Davis) are spending a lot of time at the church. Well, the reason is we are serving in a new ministry called "Outreach." The Outreach ministry was developed for two reasons. The first was to schedule outreach events for the community. These are events that will attract people to the church with various types of ministries. Be looking for opportunities to join us in these events in the future. The second reason is to provide time and energy resources to support the benevolence needs of those God brings into our church. We are going above and beyond paying utility bills, buying gas or food. We are pursuing a relationship with individuals in need by meeting physical needs and spiritual needs. We have already seen fruit from our efforts so far - all glory to God!

Amy and I come to this ministry with humbleness in our hearts. We don't feel equipped for the job set before us, but we also know that God is greater when we are humble. We covet your prayers for this ministry and ask you to consider supporting our efforts as God opens doors. In the book of Acts it says, "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily" (Acts 16:5). God will provide our needs as we grow and serve. It is His plan to use you, the church, to reach the lost. Don't miss out on an opportunity to "be the church" to someone within our congregation or someone in need outside.

If you notice someone missing, someone who is sick, or a family in need, we are to take care of each other. Research shows that personal contact is the main way to grow a church. Send a note, make a call, or even stop and talk to them when you see them in town. "So the churches were strengthened....."

Reminder To All Ladies:

If you have not signed up for the coming Ladies Bible Study, "*What Love Is*" with Kelly Minter, please do so today.

The study begins the week of March 8 with two sessions offered each week, one Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. and one Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Both studies will meet in the FCC Basement Fellowship Hall.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his Life for us" (1 John 3: 16). This excellent study will encourage you in your reading and studying of God's Word.

Belize Update

Pastor Manny from Iglesia Cristiana Josue, the church where we served in Belize last summer, has asked us to pray for them as they prepare to complete the fence they are building around their church. He asked us to pray that God will strengthen them and provide the resources they need. They began their fundraising efforts in February. As our February International Missions Spotlight, FCC will be sending a \$100 donation to them! Please keep our brothers and sisters in Belize in your prayers!

Community Clothesline

Feb 5th:
17 families
49 individuals

Feb 19th:
6 families
16 individuals

Heartland Christian Village Auxiliary

The Auxiliary raised \$9,151.67 in funds for 2014. Purchases were made to make the lives of the residents for comfortable and pleasant. Nursing items, Kitchen improvements, lapel mic, clothing protectors, entry board letters, flowers, birdseed, activities, mugs, entertainment, and others. The auxiliary would like to graciously thank everyone for the prayers and support.

Upcoming...

Circle of Friends fundraiser in March
Volunteer Banquet– April 10

Calling All Seniors, *Just Older Youth!*

This March we will focus our attention on FCC Youth. Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Senior Fellowship on Thursday, March 12, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m.

Our worship focus will include familiar hymns and "yesterdays youth favorites" and a devotion led by Bro. Matt Davis. During the fellowship time, Matt will share current and future youth activities, reflections of his first seven months as FCC Youth Minister, and insights as to ways we can encourage our youth. Plan now to attend and enjoy the worship, fellowship, and lunch with the staff and seniors of all ages. Meat,

drinks, and table service will be provided; each person should bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert to share.

Thursday, April 16, 2015 the seniors will travel to Central Christian Church at Mt. Vernon, IL for the **Southern Illinois Seniors' Luncheon**, musical program, fellowship and devotions. This event is hosted by Lincoln Christian University, St Louis Christian College, and Central Christian Church. More details to follow later.

| | Video | Audio | Greeters | Children's Ministry | Communion | Servers |
|----|--------|---------|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | Tom | Aubrey | 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 |
| 8 | Zach | Brianna | John & Marian Wilson | <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 |
| 15 | Matt | Brianna | Fontella Waddell | <u>Nursery</u> : John & Reeni Letizia <u>Wee Worship</u> : Cheryl 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 |
| 22 | Jim | Aubrey | Marian Lindley | <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 |
| 29 | Matt D | Rick | Youth | <u>Nursery</u> : <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen <u>K-5</u> : Youth Sunday | Youth | |

Faith, Fitness and Fellowship

1 Cor 9:25-27 *"Every athlete exercises self-control in all able things. They do it to receive a perish wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."*

The first six weeks have ended in our endeavor of trying to work on specific disciplines in our lives. I hope that this was a chance to feel stronger and most importantly draw closer to God.

Congratulations to Reeni, Cathy, Anthony, and Matt Davis for the small prizes that were drawn during the first six weeks. A bigger prize will be drawn on March 1 for the first six weeks. If you missed the first six weeks that is OK, we are starting a new round on March 1st. If you want to join this one just let me know. It is not too late, I will be at the welcome center.

Thank you for joining in the fun, Jennifer Davis.

Food Pantry

After 3 weeks of cold weather, we finally could serve our families.

20 families
45 people served
3 deliveries
13 volunteers
20 1/3 volunteer hours

March: Fruit

April: Corn

March 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 3:00 pm Building Mtg 5:30 pm Prayer 6:30 pm Small Group & Ladies Bible Study Lija Workman Alan Baker Charles Latch | 2 | 3 Volunteers at Heartland 6:30pm Men's Study Chanille Oakley | 4 9:30am Ladies Study 4th/5th Study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Small Group | 5 1-5pm, 6-8pm Community Clothesline | 6 Ashley Bauguss | 7 10:30am Marilyn Rennels memorial service |
| 8 4:00 pm Financial Board Mtg 5:30 pm Prayer 6:30 pm Small Group & Ladies Bible Study Joni McClure | 9 Tom Huffman Molly Rickelman | 10 6:30pm Men's Study | 11 9:30am Ladies Study 4th/5th Study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Small Group Ann Conn | 12 11:00am Seniors' Luncheon | 13 | 14 180 (5th&6th) Wilma Burton Barry Conn |
| 15 4:00 pm Elder/ Ministries mtg 5:30 pm Prayer 6:30 pm Small Group & Ladies Bible Study | 16 | 17 6:30pm Men's Study | 18 9:30am Ladies Study 4th/5th Study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Small Group | 19 9am-Noon Community Clothesline Phyllis Krueger | 20 | 21 |
| 22 5:30 pm Prayer 6:30 pm Small Group & Ladies Bible Study | 23 | 24 All Church Fast 6:30pm Men's Study | 25 9:30am Ladies Study 4th/5th Study 6:30pm 4.14 6:30pm Small Group | 26 Oil Belt Minister's Retreat | 27 Middle School Ciy Weekend to Remember Judy Starwalt | 28 Marian Lindley Chad Walk |
| 29 YOUTH SUNDAY 5:30 pm Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies Bible Study No Small Group | 30 | 31 6:30pm Men's Study Reggie Rennels | | | | |