



Family

West Chicago Church of Christ

www.wcfamily.org

Volume 44, Issue 3 • January 15, 2012

A Preacher's Perspective

It's a difficult thing to understand the life of God in us. We perceive all of life through the very narrow window of our own experience. Though we cannot remember a time before our consciousness, we have never been apart from our connection to the Holy Spirit of God. The life which was the beginning of our existence was a spark lit by that Spirit. We knew security and peace in our mothers' wombs in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The psalmist wrote, "I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." He notes that we were knit together by God, and that He knows us in all our historical acts and thoughts before they ever came to be.

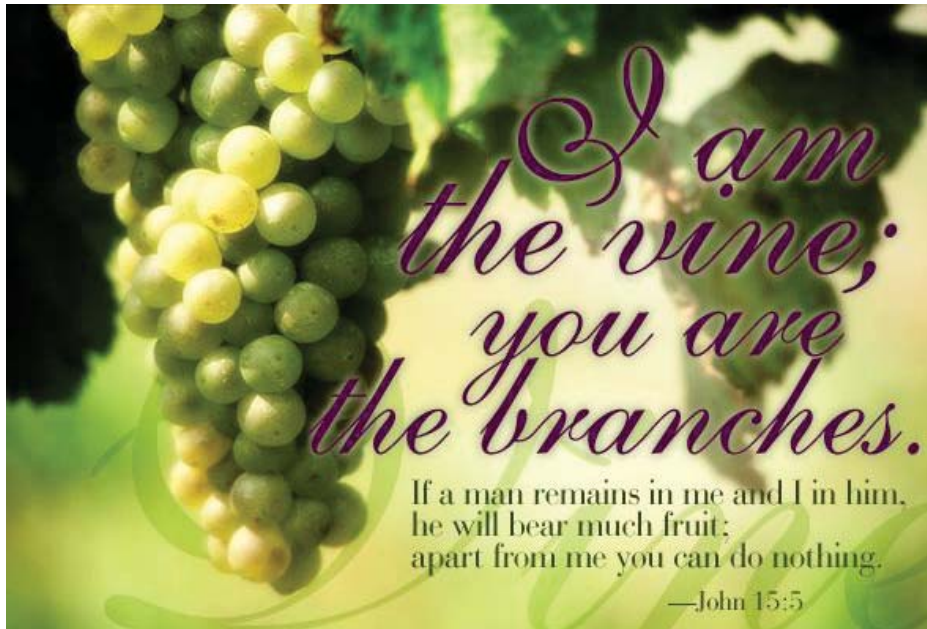
(Psalm 139)

So, when Jesus tells His disciples that He is the vine and that they (we) are the branches, His teaching is a wonderful and somewhat incomprehensible thing. His life flows in us and through us.

There is a holiness and presence within those who are His which is not really perceptible, yet it is there. We see it best, perhaps, at a distance. As we look back at the lives of our brothers and sisters in the body after a lifetime of service, we see that divine hand and influence. As we look into the tiny faces of the

newborn, we see that divine beauty. As we celebrate in a familiar hymn, we see it "when love, in one delightful stream, through every bosom flows."

In worship, we can sense the binding together of our spirits in His Spirit. We share a common response to the reading of the Word, and we join hearts around the communion table in a transcendent meal which connects us to that upper room with the disciples, which celebrates the present reality of the Spirit with us, and which points us to the feast to come in the glorified kingdom.



More difficult to sense is the speaking of the Spirit to us in our thoughts. They do feel like our own thoughts, but then a friend's face or name will come to mind for no reason we can think of. I believe that is Spirit work. In study or in dialogue about scripture, a text comes to mind or a meaning seems

clearer than we had understood before. That I think is the Spirit's gentle influence. We can resist. We can quench. We can distort. But God's present love for us is as real as the nourishment which takes minerals from the soil, water from the skies, sunlight from the heavens and converts them into the nourishment of an abundant vineyard.

God's life is in us. Celebrate it.

Chuck Miller

Welcome to the West Chicago Church of Christ

If you are visiting with us, we especially want to welcome you. We pray our time together worshipping our Father in heaven will be uplifting and encouraging. You are an honored guest and we want to thank you for being a part of our worship this morning!

Bible classes begin at 9:30 and are available for all ages. Babies can be taken to the nursery located at the back of the auditorium. Pre-school and elementary-age children meet in classrooms downstairs. Teens meet in the teen room at the back of the auditorium. The adult class meets in the fellowship room.

Our Community Groups meet every Sunday throughout the year, except for the last Sunday of each month. The last Sunday of each month, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a time of praise and fellowship.

A weekly web-cast of our Sunday morning worship services is available by following these instructions:

<http://wcfamily.viewnetcam.com>

Username: wcfamily

Password: 6302312062

Click "SINGLE" tab

Allow any Active X controls

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of our Elders: Don Brewster Chuck Miller

Our Deacons are:

Justin Avey: Benevolence, Fellowship, Stewardship & Leadership

Jay Hearn: Worship & Pulpit, Communications, Outreach, Education, Benevolence

Curt Robinson: Education, Stewardship & Leadership

Rick Root: Communications, Education, Stewardship & Leadership

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening (last Sunday of each month) . . . 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.



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West Chicago, Illinois 60185
(630) 231-2062

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This Morning ...

Please take a moment this morning to fill out an attendance card, especially if you are a guest. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack. You may choose to have prayers by the elders, a prayer warrior or by the whole church family. If you choose "whole church family" it will be announced following the sermon.

Order of Worship

Welcome Curt Robinson

Praise Songs Rick Root

#797 Lord We Come Before Thee Now

Introduction & Prayer Curt Robinson

Kids Connection. Brian Gifford

Acts 2:43-47

#557 Rise Up O Men of God

#539 Higher Ground

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

#560 Living by Faith

#961 There is a Balm in Gilead

Communion Message. Don Brewster

#350 When My Love for Christ Grows Weak

Communion

Sermon Chuck Miller

#934 Softly and Tenderly

Prayer Cards Bob Voigts

#421 Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Dates to Remember

TODAY Chili & Soup Potluck Luncheon

January 17 Ladies Class

January 18 Seniors Breakfast

January 19 Teen Parent Connection

January 20 Mens Prayer Breakfast

January 22 Community Groups

January 24 Ladies Class

January 26 Teen Parent Connection

January 27 Mens Prayer Breakfast

January 29 Leadership Meeting/Praise Sunday!

Records You Helped Make

Sunday Morning Bible Class. 64

Sunday Morning Worship. 105

Wednesday Evening Bible Class. 25

Contribution. \$5,665.16

Nursery Workers

Carrie Drumheller, Jackie Robinson

Collection Counters

Justin Avey, Mike Henkel

In Our Prayers...

Phyllis Cissne, Cindy Drumheller's mother, is in rehab recuperating from a broken pelvis. She is doing well.

Obadiah Doka and his family in Nigeria are very fearful of the violence happening in northern Nigeria. The Christians have been warned to move out of northern Nigeria by a Islamic group. Pray for their safety and the continuation of his ministry. A recent letter from Doka's sponsoring church is posted on the bulletin board.

Lloyd Embree, a friend of Joyce Eakins, is very ill with cancer. Please pray for him and his wife.

John Giovanni, a friend of Lynette Root's brother, has a brain tumor. He is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation, but the doctors are not giving him much hope.

Josephine Haggerton was in the hospital last week because of some falls; no serious injury.

Bobbie Miller was in the hospital again recently with pancreatitis. Chuck will start radiation in February.

Those suffering with long-term issues:

Herman Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's brother

Justin Avey

Paul & Judy Bertrand – Lynette Root's parents

Herman Biggers – Josephine Haggerton's brother

Bonnie Bingham

Nancy Brewster

John Day

Al Dorsey

Doug Dorsey – Al's son

Joyce Duke – Bobbie Whitman's sister

Joyce Eakins's siblings

Brad Fowler – Joan Lockett's nephew

Lisa Gleason – Dana Howard's sister

Lauren Helton – Josephine Haggerton's nephew

Kathy Huml – John Pedersen's sister

Mason Hutchins – friend of

Alec Boyd & Rourke Mullins

Debbie Lawrence – Bobbie Whitman's niece

Myrna Levake

Anne Librande – Joanne Johnson's mother

Jack Lockett – father of Charlie, Mike, Julie Chavez,

Shelley Prosser, Missy Kissane, & Becky Pedersen

Mike Lockett – Joan's son

Joan Mullins – Paul's mother

Josh Otte – Chris Czernik's nephew

& the son of Marion Lake's cousin

Helen Plummer – the mother of Joan Avey and Cliff

J.D. Potts – the father of Cyndi Perez

Scott Robinson – Curt's brother

Kay Schrader

Phyllis Sitler

Bruce Snyder & Cindy Stewart – Bob Voigts' cousins

Ernie & Rose Stirrup – Kelly Ieler's parents

Jim Whitman



Connection Point is next Sunday, January 22, at the Naperville Church of Christ. **Please sign up outside of the teen room.** Brian Gifford would like to get as many youth together for this as possible. We'll meet at our church building at 2:00 p.m. and should be back around 7:00 p.m. At this student-led event, **Epic Fail**, we will think about the grace and power of God in the lives of ordinary, broken people like us.

WINTERFEST trip in Gatlinburg, Tennessee – Thursday, February 16, through Sunday, February 19 – Ian, Christina, Brian and Shannon will be chaperoning the trip again this year. An awesome time was had last year and they are looking forward to another great time this year! Plans are to leave the building around 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning and drive straight through to Gatlinburg. This will allow us to go on a group hike during the day on Friday before all of the activities kick off that evening. Hopefully, this will give you more time to unite as a group and enjoy time in God's awesome creation...the Smoky Mountains!

Moms-to-Be:

Lauren Avey – Justin & Joan's daughter-in-law

Nana Dukeman – Marion Lake's niece

Shannon Gifford

Jamie Miller

Christina Voigts

Armed forces:

Joe Amato – Bob & Betsy Jett's son-in-law is in Afghanistan until the middle of March.

Josh Aultman – Bobbie Whitman's grand-nephew

Ryan Gleason – Dana Howard's nephew

Jacob Headtke – U.S. Marines, RCC alumni

Joey Wertz – the friend of Lynette Root's friend, Iraq

Jonathon Young – a Warrant Officer in the army

Missions:

City of Children – Ensenada, Mexico

Living Room Café – Chicago

Mission Lazarus – Honduras & Haiti

Shults-Lewis – the teens, their families, the workers

Enoch & Jeannine Thweatt – Taiwan

Teen Parent Connection - West Chicago

Joe & Allison Voigts – Korea

Students of Joe Voigts – China

Ayodele Waleola – Nigeria

Today!

Everyone is welcome, especially those who are visiting, to our annual **Chili, Soup & Sandwich Luncheon** immediately following worship in the fellowship room. Beware of Dan Vantreese's super hot chili!



BAPTISM

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority...having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:9, 10, 12

Bookmarks

"Who I Am in Christ" bookmarks are available in the foyer. They include "Who You Are in the Family of God in West Chicago" on the back. There are plenty for everyone!

Community Groups!



West Chicago Community Groups

Community Groups are scheduled to meet next weekend. Our purpose is to 1) provide time together in a less structured setting than our Sunday morning worship and 2) grow in love by connecting with others. Some questions to

ask yourself, "Has the enemy stolen my joy?" and "Do I focus on negatives rather than love?" Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors!

Bible Class Teachers

Please sign up to teach the Wednesday evening 0-4 aged class. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

Ladies Bible Class

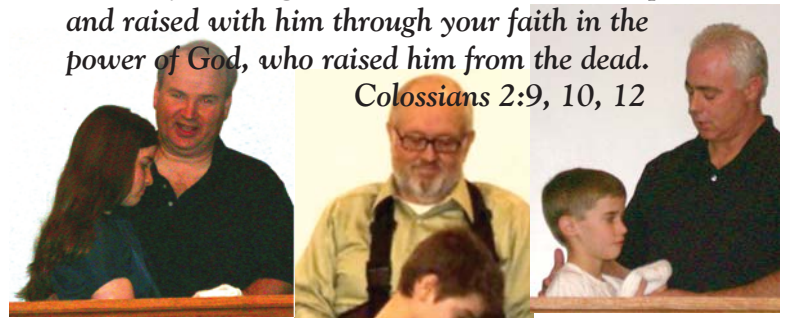
The Tuesday morning Ladies Class will begin a new course of study soon, **Light My Path Ministries, God's People and Their Callings**, by Debbie McAfee. Contact Pat Brewster if you would like to join the class. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship room.

Teen Parent Connection

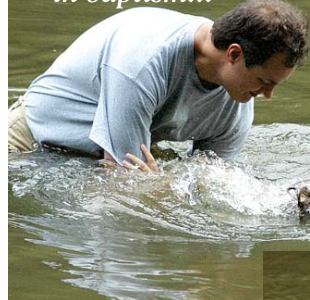
Meals are needed for the Thursday evening Teen Parent Connection meetings that will be held at the end of January and in February. If you are willing to prepare and/or serve a meal or donate money for a meal for approximately 15 people, see Sally.

New Address

Kim Sitler has a new address: 3153 Riverbirch Drive #102, Aurora, Illinois 60502. Her new email address is ckpsitler@comcast.net. Her phone number is the same as before, 630-632-2626 (cell only).



...buried with him in baptism...



- Margaret Henkel
- Taylor Dean
- Rourke Mullins
- Chris Robinson
- Charlie Hearn
- Alec Boyd
- Shelby Root
- Nick Pedersen
- Sylvia Perez
- Rachel Hearn

...raised with him through faith...



FAITH

